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OPINION METER
This week's poll:

Do you believe the impeachment proceedings against Gov. Benigno Fitial should be revived in January?

Let your voice be heard!
Go to
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to cast your vote.

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It was a brazen scheme to help aspiring school teachers cheat on the tests.

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Fire razes a Bangladeshi garment factory, killing at least 112.

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"Gangnam Style" has become YouTube's most viewed video.

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'No specific job offer for losing GOP incumbents'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial offered to help "defeated" incumbent Republicans find a job in government if they are interested. However, no jobs were offered prior to the Nov. 6 elections or before a critical vote on a resolution impeaching the governor, lawmakers told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

Fitial

Fitial, president of the Republican Party, also has at least 10 pending nominations requiring the advice and consent of the Senate. Among them is a defeated Republican candidate in Precinct 1, Jose T. Limes, who was appointed to serve on the NMI Retirement Fund board of trustees nine days after the elections.

» < Governor has 10 pending nominations needing Senate nod

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Ogumoros take turns—again—as acting DPS chief

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Department of Public Safety deputy commissioner Ambrosio Ogumoro is now acting DPS commissioner again, after his brother Aniceto's temporary 90-day appointment expired on Nov. 2.

Ambrosio and Aniceto Ogumoro have been taking turns as acting DPS commissioner since March, when Ray Mafnas was placed on leave and then later reassigned to Department of Corrections commissioner. Mafnas used to head the two offices.

Press secretary Angel Demapan said the deputy commissioner, Ambrosio Ogumoro, "by nature of ascension, has been the acting commissioner for DPS since the delegation for Aniceto Ogumoro expired."

However, as of yesterday afternoon, the administration has yet to provide a

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Agency probes land turtle import, sale

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

With an ongoing investigation involving a recent report of turtles being sold at a local store, the CNMI Division of Fish & Wildlife stressed the importance of having a vigilant public report similar incidents.

Aquatic education specialist Richard B. Seman said in an interview yesterday that Secretary Arnold I. Palacios of the Department of Land and Natural Resources received a call regarding the matter on Nov. 21 and immediately referred it to the Enforcement Division.

The female caller, who saw the turtles at the store at about 2pm, posted what she saw on Facebook and instantly elicited responses encouraging her to report it to the authorities.

"I heard before that it was illegal to catch or eat turtles but I'm not sure. And seeing them in a store for sale made me think maybe it's legal. That's why I did the Facebook posting," she said in an email response.

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WATER DAMAGE HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
3K Construction workers check on and clean up the acoustic ceiling tiles and floors on the first floor of the Office of the Governor building on Capital Hill yesterday after the hallway and offices were soaked with water coming from the building's second floor currently under renovation. Damage assessment is ongoing.

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Local

'$1.2M govt remittance is earmarked for DB members'

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Although the NMI Retirement Fund received remittances from the central government this fiscal year, the amount is specifically earmarked for active defined benefit members only and not for members who are certified as eligible to retire, according to acting administrator Lillian Pangelinan Friday.

In a Nov. 23 letter to Sen. Francisco Q. Cruz (R-Tinian) Pangelinan said that beginning fiscal year 2013 in October until Nov. 2, the Department of Finance has already remitted $1.24 million in employer contributions to the pension agency. However, she said, Finance Secretary Larissa Larson neglected to explain the specific purpose of these remitted funds.

Section 710(e) of the 2013 Appropriations Act directs that "Defined Benefit employer contributions shall be first applied to the past due employer contributions of business units receiving appropriations for personnel under appropriations acts to satisfy pending retirement applications."

"None of the employer contributions remitted by Finance from Oct. 1 through Nov. 2, 2012, were earmarked as funds for individuals who have been certified as eligible to retire. Rather, these remittances were earmarked for active Defined Benefit members," Pangelinan explained to the senator.

She also disclosed that on Nov. 15, 2012, Finance remitted $63,602.16 in employer contributions to allow for one specific individual to retire. Notably, she said, this individual was certified as eligible to retire subsequent to the certification of eight other retirement applicants. Example, eight pending retirees were certified before this one specific individual.

"Unfortunately, 12 individuals are still waiting to retire and receive their pensions; and these 12 pending retirees must remain pending until Finance remits the deficient employer contributions," said Pangelinan, adding that because Finance has remitted $63,000 for only one individual's retirement application, the Fund does not possess and cannot disburse the pensions owed the 12 individuals who have been certified to retire.

Hundreds of Fund members who have filed and have been waiting for their refund checks are still facing an indefinite delay in their monies after the Fund suspended the disbursement of checks until the federal court provides guidance on future releases.

Since the enactment of Public Law 17-82, which authorizes Fund members to withdraw their contributions in full from the pension program without resigning from government, over 1,700 members have already applied, of which only 94 have successfully received their checks.

The Fund cited the "consistent failure" of the government and its agencies to remit the required payments to the agency, both employee and employer contributions, as reason for the suspension of the disbursement of refund checks.

P.L. 18-82 also requires that the Fund refund not only the amounts the government remitted but also the amounts the government failed to remit. According to the Fund, this creates a problem.

IP&E brings back Shell Ferrari collectible cars promotion

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Jeff Boyer, CNMI area manager for IP&E, introduces the company's Velocita promotion, which gives customers a chance to own any of five limited edition Ferrari model cars.

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

Shell Ferrari model cars are back to race anew in the Northern Marianas after Shell licensee Isla Petroleum & Energy launched yesterday its Velocita promotion.

Named after a word that denotes speed, this latest promotion gives customers a chance to own any of the five limited edition Ferrari model cars, which are detailed replicas of the sleek sports cars built by the iconic race car manufacturer.

Jeff Boyer, CNMI area manager for IP&E, touted Shell's successful teamup with Ferrari as indicative of their shared commitment and passion for motorsports and fuels technology, having won over a hundred races in the Formula One track.

"In F-1 racing, it's all about quality and perfection," said Boyer, adding that the partnership has been instrumental in creating Shell's "unique formulation" called Shell V-Power.

Initially developed as race fuel for the F-1 Grand Prix, Shell V-Power qualifies as a top tier fuel as it cleans intake valves and fuel injectors for enhanced engine responsiveness, having five times more cleaning power than what is required by federal government standards.

"Shell V-Power is the best premium gasoline available on Saipan today. V-Power users enjoy the benefit of 99 percent of the technology developed in F-1 racing. So you're getting the best of the best," Boyer said at a press conference yesterday at Hard Rock Café in Garapan.

V-Power customers will have the chance to own five available Ferrari model cars in the Velocita promotion: the Ferrari F2008, Scaglietti 612, 599GTB Fiorano, FXX, and 360 GCT.

For a minimum 7-gallon purchase of Shell V-Power, customers can get a Ferrari model car for only $0.99. Shell Lucky 7 card holders can also use their points to redeem the collectible car.

Boyer said only three of the five model cars are available as of yesterday, and the other two will be released in the coming weeks so model car aficionados will have the opportunity to complete their collection.

The Velocita promotion is only available while supplies last, so Boyer urged the public to visit their nearest Shell IP&E stations and purchase V-Power to own the Ferrari model cars to add to their collection.

Every Shell V-Power gas purchase also entitles the customer Lucky 7 DoublePoints, added Boyer.

Governor's office rooms and hallway flooded

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Seven offices and a hallway on the first floor of the building that houses the Office of the Governor on Capital Hill was flooded with water from the second floor that is under renovation. The administration said the cause may have been either a faucet on the second floor restroom that was left running or damage caused in the process of construction.

Employees said that when they reported for work yesterday morning, they discovered that water had seeped through the acoustic ceiling tile, flooding different areas in the southern part of the building's first floor.

The water damaged some government documents, and soaked desks, chairs, and other office materials and equipment. Damage assessment is still ongoing.

The hallway leading to seven offices was also flooded. Among those affected by the flood were the Indigenous Affairs Office, the senior policy adviser's office, the Women's Affairs Office, the Special Projects Office, the Transportation Office, the Office of Grants Management, and portions of the Office of Management and Budget.

Press secretary Angel Demapan said the "matter is being assessed to determine whether the flood was caused by water left running or by damage caused in the process of construction work."

"Once we receive the assessment report, we will be able to determine the next steps," Demapan said.

He said there's "no immediate discovery of critical damage."

"Office equipment still needs to undergo tests to determine damage, if any," he added.

Others said it was allegedly "negligence" on the part of the contractor, which is currently renovating the Office of the Attorney General on the second floor of the building.

Emergency Management Office logistics manager Absalon Waki and incident officer Henry Iguel were deployed to the Office of the Governor to oversee the cleanup.

Waki said the Department of Public Works is conducting structural damage assessment.

As of yesterday afternoon, 3K Construction workers were still mopping and vacuuming the floors and cleaning up the ceilings and offices. Hallways lights were turned off because of ongoing damage assessment and many acoustic ceiling tiles were opened. Cardboards and warning signs were also placed on the hallway to prevent people from slipping because of wet floors.

Employees said water could have been left open since Saturday afternoon or since early Monday morning.

"Regardless, there's too much water wasted and structural damage and other damage," another employee said.

Proposed disqualification of judge from bench trial nixed

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman has denied a motion to disqualify a fellow judge, Joseph Camacho, from presiding over a bench trial, saying there is no valid basis for the motion and the court believes that determinations regarding disqualification are best referred to an appellate body.

This, he said, can be a judge from the Guam Superior Court or an ad hoc council and suggests that this matter be examined closely to determine if revision in the present court policy is necessary to ensure the efficient administration of the Superior Court.

John Carlo Sanchez, through counsel Michael W. Dotts, had asked the court to disqualify Camacho from presiding over his bench trial, arguing that Camacho gained personal knowledge of disputed evidentiary and highly prejudicial facts when he reviewed and rejected Sanchez's earlier plea agreement.

Wiseman countered that disqualification is not required because all the knowledge that Camacho has regarding the case was gained in the course of performing his judicial duties, rather than from any "extrajudicial source."

Sanchez was involved in a physical altercation among several young men that on Oct. 9, 2011. He was charged with two counts of assault and battery, one count of rioting, and one count of disturbing the peace.

Sanchez pleaded guilty to two counts of assault and battery in exchange for a reduced sentence and dismissal of the remaining charges. He admitted to aiding and abetting co-defendants Kelvin, Joaquin and Don Sanchez in punching and kicking the victim, Domingo Cruz. Under the plea agreement, Sanchez would have served five days of imprisonment and one year of probation.

Camacho rejected the agreement, noting it was too lenient a sentence "given that the victim was already outnumbered." The matter was then set for a bench trial.

On Sept. 10, 2012, Dotts filed the motion to disqualify Camacho based on the appearance of partiality created by Camacho's awareness of defendant's guilty plea and factual admissions. Camacho asked that the motion to disqualify be reassigned to another judge, resulting in the mo-

See JUDGE on Next Page

Man in illegal firearms possession case objects to US Probation report

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

A 35-year-old man who pleaded guilty to illegal possession of a firearm is objecting to the 18- to 24-month sentence recommended by the Probation Office.

Justin A. Funkugub, through his lawyer Ramon K. Quichocho, objected to the final presentence investigation report, citing factors that the court should consider in determining the type and length of sentence that will be imposed on him.

Under the U.S. sentencing guidelines, Funkurub's crime carries a range of 18-24 months' imprisonment.

Quichocho said the court should sentence his client to just 18 months in prison and one year of supervised release.

Quichocho said his client specifically objects to a section of the presentence report, which indicate that his client admitted that a friend gave him the gun and that he intended to return it someday, declining to name the friend. The correct information, according to Quichocho, is that Funkugub's maternal grandfather owned the gun and when his grandfather passed away, he took the gun.

Funkugub also objected to a section of the report recommending a fine. Quichocho said the probation officer has since clarified that Paragraph 74 "provides statutory information and do not serve as a recommendation to the court." Therefore, the lawyer proposes no fine for his client.

Quichocho said a sentence of 18 months in prison and one year of supervised released is enough to satisfy the four purposes of punishment.

"Mr. Funkugub respectfully submits that the following factors are relevant to the court's consideration in fashioning a sentence that is sufficient but not greater than necessary to accomplish the objectives of retribution, deterrence, incapacitation, and rehabilitation," states Quichocho.

He pointed out that the nature and circumstances of the offenses and Funkugub's history and characteristics support a sentence of 18 months incarceration and one year of supervised release. Funkugub has taken responsibility for his crime and pleaded guilty.

Funkugub was indicted on a charge of felon in possession of a firearm, possession of a firearm with a removed, altered, or obliterated serial number, and felon in possession of ammunition.

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FAMILY READINESS BRIEFING CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Soldiers and family members of Fox Company listen to a presentation on financial planning from the Navy's Work and Family Life consultant Deanne Delansig, during family readiness briefings conducted Tuesday at the GUNG BARC. Eighteen soldiers deploying with the battalion are from the CNMI.

NEW UFO OFFICERS CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Outgoing president Bong Malasarte of the United Filipino Organization, third left, is flanked by the new set of officers who were chosen during last Saturday's election at the Filcom Pavilion in Susupe. From left to right, incoming president Annamae Adaza, secretary Mario Mayuga, Malasarte, treasurer Evelyn Deazeta, auditor Flor Miranda, and public relations officer Jun Alciso.

AGENCY

From Page 1

Seman said their personnel responded by going to the store and discovered, upon inspection, 11 land turtles—not sea turtles—and other species that should not have been imported to the Northern Marianas in the first place that were being sold by a male Chinese who imported the animals from China.

There have been previous cases when these land turtles are brought in as pets but this is not allowed, according to Seman who disclosed that the same man had a shipment of live shrimp that was confiscated by quarantine officers at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport on Nov. 3.

Seman noted that the man did not know that land turtles are not allowed for importation to the CNMI.

"But ignorance is not an excuse," he told *Saipan Tribune*. "Unfortunately, he lost all his products. All of them were confiscated and frozen and will be discarded soon."

Seman said there are individuals in the Commonwealth who import live species but before doing so, they visit the Division of Fish & Wildlife to submit a request. He said their office responds back by informing the requester what can and cannot be brought in and other corresponding regulations.

Seman, who will serve officially at the division until January before he takes on his new role as lawmaker, said investigation of last week's incident is still ongoing.

"We'll get to the bottom of this," he said, adding that the male Chinese involved is "very cooperative and learning along the way."

Seman said the division has a continuous education and outreach program that raises awareness and emphasizes the need for the public to report any irregularities that they see involving the islands' marine and wildlife resources.

He encouraged those who have plans to import to consult their office first to avoid wasting their time, money, and other resources.

"It is very critical that we do not allow any non-endemic species from entering our islands because some of them may have natural enemies or predators that may end up replacing our endemic species. By then, we're going to have problems with our ecosystem," added Seman.

For any reports, call the Division of Fish & Wildlife enforcement section at 664-6000 or 989-6093.

OGUMOROS

From Page 1

copy of the governor's memo on the latest temporary appointment.

To date, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial has yet to nominate an individual to hold the DPS commissioner post on a permanent basis.

The appointment requires the advice and consent of the Senate.

Ambrosio Ogumoro repeatedly told a Special Committee on Impeachment in October that the process to impeach the governor was a "waste of time" and invoked his Fifth Amendment right dozens of times under questioning.

At the time, his brother Aniceto Ogumoro also testified that he didn't know about the incident at the airport involving police and ports police officers who escorted former attorney general Edward Buckingham out of the CNMI. They allegedly helped—albeit unsuccessfully—Buckingham avoid the service of a penal summons in connection with criminal charges filed against him.

JUDGE

From Page 3

tion landing on Wiseman's lap.

In his nine-page order, Wiseman ruled that the reassignment of the motion for disqualification was not required.

Wiseman also ruled that there is no valid basis for disqualification, that there is no appearance of partiality, and that Camacho did not acquire personal knowledge and disputed evidentiary facts concerning the proceedings.

"If the court were to accept defendant's argument that knowledge acquired during court proceedings is 'personal,' then every judge would have to recuse themselves after signing a bench warrant for a suspect or conducting an arraignment or preliminary hearing. Such would make the prosecution of a criminal defendant nearly impossible," stated Wiseman.

GOP

From Page 1

Rep. Joe Palacios (R-Saipan) said Fitial offered to help those who didn't make it in the elections but he said there were no specific jobs offered.

"He said he's willing to help if we are interested, so it's up to us members. Every governor would do the same, to extend help to his party mates after losing an election. The governor didn't make specific offers but he said he will help those who are interested," Palacios said.

He said he was not specifically offered a job. Palacios is a former director at the Office on Aging whose *man'amko*, he said, have been expressing their interest in welcoming him back.

"After the 17th Legislature, I will take it easy. I am a retiree. I may go into private sector job or not. I haven't made a decision yet," Palacios said.

Rep. Sylvester Iguel (R-Saipan) separately said the governor didn't offer "specific" government jobs but he said some of the specific positions were floated around by party "members, but not the governor."

"They were the ones who asked if there are vacant government jobs. The governor didn't offer anything," he said.

Iguel said he himself was not offered a job. Iguel used to work at the Department of Public Health, now Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

"Right now I am still weighing my options," he said.

Rep. Fred Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan) said he only knew there were "some discussions" about jobs after the election but he's not aware whether specific positions were offered to anyone. Deleon Guerrero is a former teacher at Kagman High School, Northern Marianas College, and Northern Marianas Academy.

He said when the new Legislature comes in this January, he might venture into the private sector.

"I will try to find something in the private sector or I will go back to teaching. If I end up in government, which I highly doubt, I am still weighing my options," he said.

Press secretary Angel Demapan, when asked on the matter, said, "The governor has not made any job offers at this time."

Rep. Ray Palacios (Cov-Saipan) said he will "rest for a while" after his term. Palacios didn't seek re-election but voted "no" to the impeachment resolution, saying he knew "anyway that it's not going to succeed" back in October.

"But now we know if they do that again, they will have the vote in the 18th Legislature. I won't be there anymore," he said.

Independent Republican vice chair and former lieutenant governor Diego Benavente and Rep. Joe Deleon Guerrero (IR-Saipan) separately said yesterday it won't be surprising if the governor promised jobs "in exchange for protecting the governor against impeachment" or for running in the midterm polls.

Other sources said specific jobs or departments including the Department of Finance, Department of Commerce and Office of Management and Budget were offered to other defeated Republicans, although there's no telling whether all of them have at least minimum requirements such as a degree in finance, budget and management or economics, among other things.

The administration also removed employees that were known to support non-Republican candidates in recent weeks.

'Not surprising'

Benavente said, "It's no secret that the government is financially strapped" and that it wouldn't be in the CNMI's best interest to have more "political hires."

He said that hiring at this time should only be for critical positions such as doctors and nurses.

"I also still don't believe there's enough money to go back to 80 hours this fiscal year so we shouldn't be having more political hiring," he added.

He reiterated his earlier call that this is "about doing the right thing" and not about individual persons.

"The governor continues to hurt the people even after they spoke up. Stop getting the CNMI into deeper problems. The potential of more political hiring is more reason to get this new Legislature to immediately act on the impeachment resolution," Benavente said.

House minority leader Joe Deleon Guerrero (IR-Saipan), main author of the impeachment resolution, said that pro-impeachment lawmakers anticipated that the governor would promise incumbent members "who protected the governor from impeachment some kind of positions in government if they lose" in the election.

He said this is not surprising.

Nominations

As of yesterday, the governor has at least 10 pending nominations, half of them submitted to the Senate days before or after the Nov. 6 elections.

Sen. Frank Cruz (R-Tinian), chairman of the Senate Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations, said his panel will review all nominations thoroughly, the same way they did with prior nominations.

"If we see discrepancy, we will look more closely. We will take into consideration all information that we find out and receive," he said.

On Nov. 15, Fitial nominated Jose T. Limes to serve on the NMI Retirement Fund board of trustees representing the Carolinian community. Limes was a Republican candidate in Precinct 1.

If the Senate confirms his nomination to the Fund, he will serve a four-year term expiring on March 10, 2016.

His nomination came days after Fitial nominated two others to the Fund board: Alvaro Santos and Martin DLG. San Nicolas.

Earlier this year, the Senate rejected the governor's re-appointment of Santos to serve on the Marianas Public Land Trust over his decision to buy a private property for $272,000 during a time the MPLT board of trustees didn't have a quorum.

It's not known whether Santos' appointment to another board of trustees will sit well with the Senate.

The Senate has yet to receive the required documents for the three Fund board nominees.

Fitial also submitted the names of Ray Salas and Antonio Camacho to the Senate as his secretary nominees to the departments of Public Lands and Public Works respectively.

Cruz said his panel received most requirements for Salas' and Camacho's nominations.

The governor also re-appointed Pam Carhill and appointed Dr. Alan S. Markoff to the Health Care Professions Licensing Board. Cruz said they received the required documents for Markoff's nomination but not for Carhill.

Cruz said the EAGI Committee also has yet to receive the requirement documents in support of the nominations of the following since at least October: Arsene Borja for the Civil Service Commission, Mikaela Sanchez for the Northern Marianas College's Board of Regents, and Vincent Calvo for the Marianas Visitors Authority board of directors.

"We could only schedule public hearings on those nominations with requirements already submitted. We will make the public hearing schedules for the others soon," Cruz added.

DPW refutes Kilili's statement on federal highway funds

The Department of Public Works seeks to clarify Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan's (Ind-MP) statement in the *Marianas Variety* on Nov. 19, 2012, regarding unspent federal highway funds. According to Sablan, only $8.6 million out of the $37.6 million received by the CNMI was spent on federal highway projects or that only 23 percent of federal funds have been spent over the past six years.

However, prior to Sept. 30, 2012, the CNMI received an additional $11.9 million for new projects that are currently either in the bidding phase for construction by 2013 or are in the contracting phase for new road design projects. The CNMI could not have possibly spent the additional $11.9 million within a two-month window. Federal project guidelines require planning, environmental reviews for federal regulatory compliance, design, and construction, which typically take two to three years to complete. This means prior to the appropriation of $11.9 million, the CNMI received a total of $25.7 million.

According to the Federal Highway Administration's report dated August 2012, the CNMI's unexpended balance of previously appropriated funds is $9.5 million, meaning the CNMI spent over $16.2 million or 63 percent. With the additional $11.9 million, the unexpended balance of the CNMI as of August 2012 increased to $21.5 million. When factoring in the recently appropriated funds, the CNMI spent 43 percent out of the $37.6 million rather than 23 percent as claimed by Sablan.

End of FY	Cumulative Appropriations at end of FY	Expenditures as of August 2012	Percent Expended	Balance as of August 2012	Encumbered Funds as of August 2012	Unencumbered Funds as of August 2012
30-Sep-11	25,721,854.62	9,518,912.05				
30-Sep-12	37,664,341.31	16,202,942.57	43.02%	21,461,398.74	7,781,441.49	**13,679,957.25

*** Includes new appropriation received by the CNMI in September 2012 for projects that are currently in the bidding for construction phase or contract negotiation for design phase. Funds will be encumbered once contracts have been awarded.*

Sablan

Of the $21.5 unexpended appropriation, $7.8 million has already been encumbered under currently active projects that are either ongoing or are in the close-out phase. The remaining $13.7 million has been authorized or obligated to new design and construction projects that are currently in the bidding phase for construction or contract negotiation phase for planning and engineering design.

DPW's expenditure rate is expected to increase significantly with the implementation of six major roadway construction projects slated to begin in 2013. These projects are the Cross Island Phase IIB, Cross Island Phase III, Rota Route 10 Hazard Elimination, Islandwide Traffic Signal Upgrade, Islandwide Road Marking & Signage Upgrade (Phase I), and Beach Road/Tun Segundo Traffic Signal Installation. It is expected that these projects will boost the private sector workforce, generate taxable revenue for the CNMI, and promote economic growth in the CNMI.

The design of new additional projects that are currently ongoing and are either in the negation phase or contract processing includes the Beach Road Safety and Drainage Improvements, Chalan Pale Arnold Hazard Elimination, Naftan Road Route 302 Improvements, Rota Route 11 Phase 2, Rota Route 103 Improvements, and Tinian Hazard Elimination of Routes 21, 24, and 27, which are currently all in the negotiation phases for preliminary engineering design.

Other major road improvements in 2013 include the construction of Route 36 Kalabera/Windward Phase 1, which is funded under a separate earmarked appropriation.

The Department of Public Works encourages the public and elected officials to visit its office to find out more about the program. In fact, DPW Highway Administrator Sonya P. Dancoe, P.E. shares her disappointment that DPW was not consulted prior to Sablan's request to Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood to change the current formula for the distribution of federal funds to the CNMI so that an alternative approach could be evaluated such as the possibility of requesting earmark funds for Tapochao Road and other unpaved roadway systems once the previously earmarked funds for Route 36 Kalabera/Windward Improvement have been exhausted in 2014.

Public Works Secretary Anthony Camacho states: "Kilili's effort may be moot in getting additional funds for the CNMI if he expects to literally change the appropriation percentage. The other territories such as American Samoa, Virgin Islands, and Guam must be willing to take a percentage cut in order for this to happen, which is highly unlikely.

"I think Kilili should instead concentrate in finding new money similar to the earmark funds for Route 36 Kalabera/Windward, instead of trying to take credit for pushing unspent funds in what was already appropriated/obligated and are being administered by the hardworking staff of DPW," he added. ***(DPW)***

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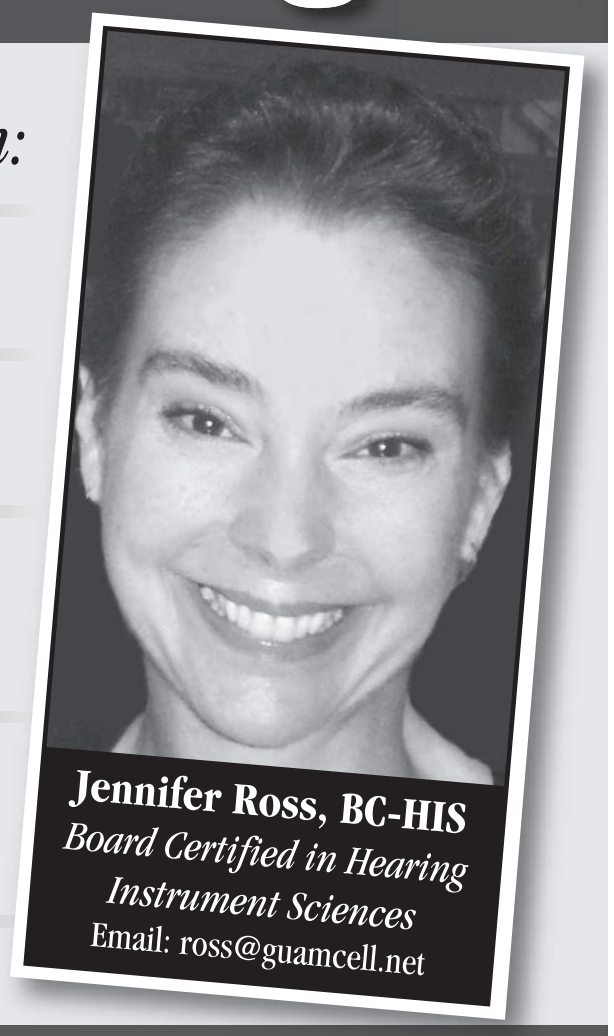
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Security guard asks court for more time to depose witness

»Barcinas opposes emergency motion for deposition

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Public School System principal Jonas Barcinas is opposing the emergency motion filed by a security guard for additional deposition in relation to the sexual harassment case lodged against the former some five years ago.

A deposition is an opportunity for the opposing attorney to ask any questions that are relevant to the case or likely to lead to the discovery of admissible evidence.

Barcinas

Homayan Kabir filed the sexual harassment case against Barcinas and PSS in November 2007. He alleged that Barcinas, at the time the principal of Dandan Elementary School, sexually harassed him by making repeated sexual advances on him.

In a four-page document filed in federal court, Kabir asked the court to authorize him to depose Akin Rasa, a former security guard who worked with Kabir at DES at the time. Rasa was earlier identified by Kabir as a person with discoverable information in the case.

However, the court was notified that Rasa is no longer on Saipan and had initially relocated to Guam then left the place afterward. Based on a court order, depositions should have been completed by the end of September 2012. After the deposition deadline, Kabir stated that he became aware that Rasa is now residing in Greenville, South Carolina.

According to Kabir, Rasa's testimony is potentially of significant value to the resolution of this case, particularly since there are so few witnesses to any of the relevant events, other than Kabir and Barcinas themselves. Kabir wants to depose Rasa in South Carolina, for use in court proceedings, if necessary.

Barcinas asked the court to deny Kabir's emergency motion for deposition because "there is no emergency" at all.

"This case was filed in Nov. 9, 2007. Five years have now passed since that date. Plaintiff was under a responsibility all of that time to move this case forward. Plaintiff has utterly failed to do so," states Barcinas' opposition to the motion.

According to Barcinas, through his lawyer, assistant attorney general David Lochabay, Kabir states no single fact concerning efforts to locate Rasa after his departure from Guam. Kabir, he added, did not show even minimal diligence in attempting to locate and depose Rasa, nor any showing of even excusable neglect.

Lochabay said the plaintiff is not even sure if Rasa has relevant information relating to the case.

"In short, the plaintiff moves this court to allow a deposition of a witness when plaintiff does not know if the witness has relevant info," he stated.

According to Lochabay, if emergency motion for deposition is granted, this will result in additional expenditures of both parties—time and money—for a shot in the dark.

Lochabay said that Barcinas' hearing strategy and tactics could be affected by the testimony of Rasa if the court will consider Kabir's motion.

IP&E spreads holiday cheer with check, toy donation

CLARISSA V. DAVID

IP&E CNMI area manager Jeff Boyer presents the check donation to Commonwealth Health Center Volunteer Association's Rieko Guerrero, left photo, and Karidat Social Services executive director Angie V. Guerrero and administrative officer Judy Pangelinan, right photo, during a ceremony yesterday morning at Hard Rock Cafe in Garapan.

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Isla Petroleum & Energy, licensee of the Shell brand in the Northern Marianas, brings happiness to the younger members of the community this holiday season with their donation to two nonprofit groups that cater to the youth.

Jeff Boyer, CNMI area manager for IP&E, yesterday presented Commonwealth Health Center Volunteers Association and Karidat Social Services with a check donation in a press conference held Monday morning at Hard Rock Café in Garapan.

"We want to present something to both organizations this Christmas season," Boyer said before presenting the $250 check to CHC Volunteer Association's Rieko Guerrero, Karidat executive director Angie V. Guerrero, and administrative officer Judy Pangelinan.

Boyer also announced at the event that they will be donating to each group 50 pieces of Ferrari model cars that are part of IP&E's "Velocita" promotion launched yesterday.

Rieko Guerrero expressed her appreciation to IP&E's holiday donation to the CHC Volunteer Association, which does many activities for patients at the hospital, especially children.

"This kind of donation is really, really appreciated. We just want to say a big thank you to IP&E," she said.

For her part, Angie V. Guerrero said the check donation will help Karidat's operational expenses while the Ferrari model cars would be distributed to their young clients.

"We really appreciate the donation. The kids will really enjoy the cars," she added.

In an interview, Boyer said that yesterday's donation aims to spread holiday cheers to disadvantaged and sick children in the community through organizations that assist them.

"We hope that this donation would bring a smile to the people that you serve. We really thank you for the joy that you do. Christmas is all about children and through this small gesture, we hope to make an impact," he said.

40th YEAR Tan Holdings Established 1972

Weekly Raffle Winners

PRIZE	TICKET NUMBER	NAME
GC- $100.00 from Cosmos	7056	S. Sarber
GC- Lunch Buffet for 2 @ World Cafe	7210	Cj Eliseo Saures
GC- Sunday Brunch for 2 @ ISLA Cafe	9547	Lorenzo Sablan
GC- Lunch Buffet for 2 @ ISLA Cafe	11446	Robert Solis
GC- fr. D&Q - $20.00	8477	Edwin Correa Jr.
GC- fr. D&Q - $20.00	2724	Anna Liza Dela Cruz
GC- fr. Cosmos - $20.00	6654	Jamin Dela Cruz
GC- Dinner Buffet for 1 @ ISLA Cafe	6661	Sophia Paracale
GC- Lunch Buffet for 1 @ ISLA Cafe	11004	Corina Arzadon
GC- Lunch Buffet for 1 @ ISLA Cafe	4144	Alice Salada

Winners must present their coupons to the Kanoa Resort front desk to receive prize.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

(This Notice is paid by NMHC with HUD Funds.)

Governor Benigno R. Fitial, Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, and the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, through its Chairwoman, Ms. Marcie M. Tomokane, wish to announce that its Consolidated Annual Performance Report (CAPER) for Program Year 2011 is available for review. Comments made by the general public should be submitted no later than 4:30 p.m. on December 27, 2012. Written comments must be submitted to the NMHC Office in Garapan, Saipan, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, or by contacting Ms. Jeannie P. Mafnas, Planner/Grant Writer, at 234-9447/7689.

The report will be submitted to the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Honolulu Office, by December 31, 2012. The CAPER encompasses the performance assessment of all HUD-funded programs administered by the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, in the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands.

The report is available at the NMHC Central Office in Saipan and at the respective NMHC Field Offices in Rota and Tinian during regular business hours, Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

/s/ Marcie M. Tomokane
Chairwoman of the Board

Tan Holdings is giving away over $6,000 in prizes and $1,750 in CUC bills this Christmas!

40th YEAR Tan Holdings Established 1972

Grand Night RAFFLE DRAW

GRAND PRIZE: $4,000.00
- $1,000 Joeten Shopping Spree
- Up to $1,000 in CUC bills
- $300 Mobil Gas
- $300 Triple J Wholesale
- $250 D&Q
- $250 Cosmos
- $100 Athlete's Foot
- $100 Skechers
- $200 Modern Stationery
- $200 National Office Supply
- $100 Shirley's Restaurant
- Overnight-night stay for 2 w/ breakfast at Fiesta ($180 equilavent)
- Dinner for 2 at Fiesta ($60 equivalent)
- $60 IT&E

2ND PLACE: $2,000.00
- $500 Joeten Shopping Spree
- Up to $500 in CUC bills
- $150 Shell Gas
- $150 Triple J Wholesale
- $100 D&Q
- $100 Cosmos
- $100 Shirley's Restaurant
- Overnight-stay for 2 w/ breakfast at Kanoa ($150 equivalent)
- Dinner for 2 at Kanoa ($60 equivalent)
- $60 Docomo
- $50 Athlete's Foot
- $50 Skechers
- $30 Modern Stationery

3RD PLACE: $1,000.00
- $250 Triple J Wholesale
- Up to $250 in CUC bills
- $150 Shell Gas
- $100 D&Q
- $100 Cosmos
- Sunday Brunch for 2 at Fiesta ($70 equivalent)
- $30 Shirley's Restaurant
- $25 Skechers
- $25 Modern Stationery

4TH PLACE: $450.00
- $100 Triple J Wholesale
- $75 D&Q
- $75 Cosmos
- $50 Mobil Gas
- Dinner for 2 at Fiesta ($60 equivalent)
- $35 Shirley's Restaurant
- $30 IT&E
- $25 Modern Stationery

5TH PLACE: $350.00
- $75 D&Q
- $75 Cosmos
- Dinner for 2 at Kanoa ($60 equivalent)
- $50 Shell Gas
- $35 Shirley's Restaurant
- $30 Docomo
- $25 Skechers

6TH PLACE: $250.00
- Sunday Brunch for 2 at Fiesta ($70 equivalent)
- $50 D&Q
- $50 Cosmos
- $30 Mobil Gas
- $25 Shirley's Restaurant
- $25 Skechers

7TH PLACE: $150.00
- Sunday Brunch for 2 at Kanoa ($70 equivalent)
- $30 Shell Gas
- $20 D&Q
- $20 Cosmos
- $10 Shirley's Restaurant

8TH PLACE: $100.00
- $25 D&Q
- $25 Cosmos
- Dinner for 1 at Fiesta ($30 Equivalent)
- $20 Shirley's Restaurant

9TH PLACE: $100.00
- $50 D&Q
- Dinner for 1 at Kanoa ($30 Equivalent)
- $20 Shirley's Restaurant

10TH PLACE: $100.00
- $50 Cosmos
- $30 Shirley's Restaurant
- $20 Modern Stationery

Have a meal at Kanoa Resort

Weekend Food Fair!

NAMI

ISLA CAFE

Barefoot Beach BBQ & Bar

Every $5.00 spent at Isla Café, Nami Bar, Barefoot Beach Bar and the Weekend Food Fair, gets you one (1) raffle ticket

Every Saturday night at 9:30pm there will be a drawing for ten (10) prizes.

Weekly Drawing Dates:

October 06, 13, 20, 27, November 03, 10, 17, 24, December 01, 08, 2012

FINAL GRAND PRIZE DRAWING on Friday, December 14, 2012

Energy Action Month promo extended

The Department of Public Works' Energy Division is extending the 2012 National Energy Action Month to Saturday, Dec. 1, 2012, with two sessions (morning and afternoon) at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center on Saipan. This is for those who were unable to avail of and participate in the last campaign event on Oct. 27, 2012.

The Energy Division through its Energy Education, Efficiency and Conservation efforts will be distributing reusable shopping bags with Home Energy Savings Kits. Participants will also have the opportunity to obtain a portable stove or electrical fan by participating in the National Energy Action Month presentation.

Due to limited seating, interested individuals must preregister with the Energy Division by calling 664-4480/81 to confirm attendance and seating from 7:30am to 4:30pm on Nov. 30, 2012. In addition, registered attendees will be required to present a copy of their most recent utility bill, in their name, to be allowed to participate in the schedule sessions.

The schedule of events is as follows:

Saturday, Dec. 1, 2012

■ First session: 9am to 11am

■ Second session: 2pm to 4pm

Participants are required to be present an hour before the start of the event for registration purposes. Bring a copy of your most recent utility bill to the event.

For more information, contact the CNMI Energy Division at 664-4480/81. ***(Office of the Governor)***

'Twas the Night Before Christmas

(or An Account of a Visit from St. Nicholas)

Editor's Note: Parents are being encouraged to read the following to their children to raise their interest, then come see the show as staged by the Friends of the Arts.

By MAJOR HENRY LIVINGSTON JR. (1748-1828)
(previously believed to be by Clement Clarke Moore)

'Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the house
Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse;
The stockings were hung by the chimney with care,
In hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be there;

The children were nestled all snug in their beds,
While visions of sugar-plums danced in their heads;
And mamma in her 'kerchief, and I in my cap,
Had just settled down for a long winter's nap,

When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter,
I sprang from the bed to see what was the matter.
Away to the window I flew like a flash,
Tore open the shutters and threw up the sash.

The moon on the breast of the new-fallen snow
Gave the lustre of mid-day to objects below,
When, what to my wondering eyes should appear,
But a miniature sleigh, and eight tiny reindeer,
With a little old driver, so lively and quick,

Who is this strange being? UFO? Friend or foe? Or could it really be…? To be continued tomorrow.

COHORT 7 CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Members of the Framingham Masters Cohort 7 get together at the Naked Fish restaurant to celebrate their first year anniversary.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

CCA board meeting today

The Commonwealth Cancer Association's board of directors will be holding its monthly meeting today, Nov. 27, 2012, at 3pm at the CCA conference room. The agenda includes reports from the president, steering committees, program manager, and program/project updates. All board meetings are open to the public. For more information, contact the CCA at 682-0050 or email at cca@ccamarianas.org. ***(CCA)***

Marine Corps training on FDM

The U.S. Marine Corps will conduct training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla on Nov. 29, from 12:30pm to 8:30pm, and Nov. 30, from 9am to noon and 2pm to 8pm. The public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots, and marine tour operators—are advised to stay clear from the area during the times and dates indicated. The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla training area will be on a 10-nautical mile radius on all quadrants. ***(PR)***

Workshop for W-2CM tax form

The Division of Revenue and Taxation, Department of Finance, is advising all employers that there will be a workshop for the Annual Wage and Salary Statement, Form W-2CM, for tax year 2012 and other 2012 yearend filing requirements. The workshop will be held on Tuesday, Dec. 11, 2012. The first session will be from 8am to 11am and the second session will be from 1pm to 4pm at the Multi-Purpose Center. Businesses, employers, and all payroll service companies are encouraged to attend. Confirm your attendance by calling the Administration Office of the Division of Revenue and Taxation at telephone numbers 664-1098 or fax at 664-1015. ***(DOF)***

DUI checkpoints on Saipan

The Department of Public Safety will be conducting DUI/sobriety checkpoints on Saipan on Nov. 30, 2012, with the first setup from 12am to 1:15am, along Beach Road Chalan Laulau by Char's Mart. The second setup is from 2:30am to 3:45am, along Chalan Pale' Arnold by the Commonwealth Development Authority Office. Traffic and patrol officers will also be conducting highway criminal interdictions, saturation patrols, aggressive driver interdictions, and laser (speed detection) enforcement. ***(DPS)***

UOG offers comprehensive NCLEX review course

The University of Guam offers a comprehensive NCLEX Review course designed for individuals who have completed a Registered Nurse program but who have not taken the NCLEX-RN examination. Interested individuals must attend the orientation session on Dec. 14 at 10am in Room 229, UOG Health Science Building, School of Nursing and Health Sciences, UOG Campus. The course will begin March 2 and run through August 2013. Registration fees are $1,060 for 265 hours of instruction. Review books will be an additional cost. Deadline to register is Feb. 15, 2013. For more information, contact Cathleen Moore-Linn at 735-2600/1 cmoore@uguam.uog.edu or Karen Cruz at 735-2660 or kcruz@uguam.uog.edu. ***(UOG)***

'Trash-a-thon' for MHS Class of '83

The MHS Class of 1983 would like to invite classmates to a "Trash-a-thon" on Saturday, Dec. 1 and Dec. 8, 2012. For more information or details, call Tonnei Camacho at 483-9665. ***(PR)***

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Nov. 27, 2000

CNMI joins fight against AIDS

Local health organizations and the community have forged anew a united front against the spread of HIV/AIDS through massive advocacy efforts denouncing acts that lead to the transmission of the dreaded disease, as the Commonwealth gears up for next month's World Aids Day celebration. Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio, during a ceremony attended by Health Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez, public health officials, organization heads and staff, proclaimed December as CNMI HIV/AIDS Month highlighting the theme "Men Make a Difference." The theme accentuates and promotes among men more active involvement in anti-HIV/AIDS efforts in what appears to be a groundbreaking response to the national HIV/AIDS epidemic.

Youth senators to re-introduce Youth Congress bill

The 3rd CNMI Youth Congress is set to re-introduce on its first regular session in January an initiative seeking to amend and clarify the functions of the Youth Congress after Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio disapproved the legislation due to several conflicting provisions. Youth Congress Speaker Angel A. Demapan expressed a sigh of relief over the governor's decision although youth senators were hoping for a recall, not a veto of House Bill 12-209 or the Youth Congress Revision Act. "We are happy that the legislation reached the governor's desk," said Mr. Demapan. Had the legislation escape veto at the executive branch, 11 of the 22 incumbent youth senators would have faced disqualification from the Youth Congress due to the proposed implementation of the retroactive clause on the age limit, an input made by the Senate.

Nov. 27, 2001

DPH steps up AIDS campaign

"I care....do you?" Those four small words sum up the theme for this year's continuing two-year campaign that focus on the role of men in eradicating the AIDS epidemic. And as part of the observance of World AIDS Day, the Department of Public Health will be sponsoring an HIV/AIDS Conference at the Diamond Hotel on November 29 and 30, where HIV education and awareness campaign will take center stage. Just like in the previous year, men will be on the forefront this year as leaders in the fight against this modern-day scourge. This much was stressed by Ned S. Arriola, deputy secretary for Public Health Administration, during yesterday's signing of the proclamation declaring December 1 as World AIDS Day.

DPH to ask for US help on diabetes program

The Department of Public Health will seek federal assistance during a national conference for diabetes control program managers organized by the Center for Disease Control and prevention in Atlanta, Georgia this week. Public Health Medical Director Richard Brostrom said the CNMI delegates to the conference will seize the opportunity to stress that the diabetes rate in the CNMI is among the worst in the world. Brostrom said that, although official records show that there are only close to 3,000 diabetics in the Commonwealth, the number may actually reach 5,000 to 6,000. This significantly raises the diabetes rate in the CNMI that has a low population of about 69,000.

Nov. 27, 2002

Residents criticize Airport Rd. project

Saying that the Airport Road improvement project would aggravate flooding problems, outraged residents accused the Department of Public Works of railroading the implementation of the project to meet the deadline set by the Federal Highway Administration. The FHA had reportedly threatened to withdraw funding for the project due to delay in its implementation. One of the residents, former Attorney General Robert T. Torres, said the project is headed to a court litigation if the DPW proceeds with it sans a drainage system.

Study: CNMI not ready for changes in land ownership laws

If a vote were taken today whether to keep or repeal the constitutional provision that limits land ownership in the CNMI to those of Northern Marianas descent, 57 percent of Commonwealth residents would elect to keep the provision, while only around 32 percent would opt to repeal it. This came to light in a Strategic Economic Development Council-commissioned research conducted by the Market Research and Development Inc. on current attitudes toward Article XII. The same study found that 64.1 percent of respondents feel that the constitutional restrictions on leases for public lands be kept as it is-a maximum of 40 years-while 29.6 percent were amenable to having the lease term increased to 55 years.

Guam and Tinian to host Exercise Forager Fury 2012

NAVAL COMPUTER AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS AREA MASTER STATION, Guam—Forager Fury 2012 will take place from Nov. 29 to Dec. 18 on Andersen Air Force Base in Guam, Tinian's West Field, and Farallon De Medinilla target range.

Forager Fury 2012 is firmly grounded in the successes and lessons learned from exercise Geiger Fury 2012, which was conducted by Marine Aircraft Group 12, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force, on the Marianna Island Range Complex in May 2012.

Forager Fury 2012 is named after Operation Forager, which was a World War II offensive launched by the United States against imperial Japanese forces in the Mariana Islands and Palau in the Pacific Ocean between June and November 1944.

During Forager Fury 2012, Anderson Air Force Base will serve as the Marine Aircraft Group 12 forward operating base and will be the venue for the MAG-12 operations center.

Training on Tinian's West Field includes emplacement of arresting gear and fuel storage/distribution for purposes of extending aviation training throughout the MIRC.

Forager Fury 2012 is an aviation training relocation event intended to meet U.S.-Japan bilateral goals by dispersing the training to other areas and increased operational readiness.

Approximately 700 personnel will participate in the aviation training in Guam and around 100 personnel will participate in the exercise on Tinian. Marines and sailors from MAG- 12 will also participate in various events in the local community during their stay on Tinian and in Guam.

Forager Fury 2012 provides an excellent opportunity for Marine forces to demonstrate their ability to displace rapidly and generate significant combat power in an expeditionary environment. Additionally, Forager Fury 2012 will allow MAG-12 to improve aviation combat integration across all echelons of the Marine Air Ground Task Force and heighten expeditionary readiness.

The inclusion of three MV-22B Ospreys provides a unique opportunity for MAG-12 to incorporate the diverse capabilities of the aircraft into MAG-level exercises. This is the first exercise that the Ospreys have participated in since they replaced aging CH-46 helicopters in Okinawa and it is important that the MAW execute the unique capabilities that the MV-22 brings.

The MV-22 is a highly-capable aircraft with an excellent operational safety record. The aircraft combines the vertical capability of a helicopter with the speed and range of a fixed-wing aircraft. With its prop-rotors in vertical position, it can take off, land, and hover like a helicopter. Once airborne, its prop-rotors can be rotated to transition the aircraft to a turboprop airplane capable of high-speed, high-altitude flight.

The MV-22 was chosen to replace the CH-46 to introduce a revolutionary change in capabilities absent in helicopters—a leap forward in speed, payload, and range. When compared to a CH-46, the MV-22 is roughly twice as fast, can carry nearly three times the payload and has approximately four times the combat radius. Additionally, the MV-22 has the ability to operate at much higher altitudes and refuel while airborne.

The vertical take-off and landing capability of the MV-22, combined with increased speed and extended range enables the squadron to provide assault support transport of combat troops, supplies and equipment during expeditionary, joint or combined operations. Training enables the squadron to respond to short-notice, worldwide employment in support of Marine Air-Ground Task Force operations.

Since October 2003, MV-22s have successfully assisted in humanitarian assistance/disaster relief operations in Haiti, participated in the recovery of a downed U.S. pilot in Libya, supported combat operations in Iraq and Afghanistan and conducted multiple Marine Expeditionary Unit deployments.

MV-22 aircraft will operate primarily out of Andersen, but will execute missions throughout the MIRC and Northern Marianna Islands in order to exercise the diverse capabilities the aircraft brings to the MAW.

F/A-18 Hornets assigned to three U.S. Marine Corps squadrons will be operating out of Andersen Air Force Base.

All of the training will be conducted within the scope of Environmental Impact Statements and in accordance with the existing MIRC training manual. ***(PR)***

US-based charity Habele wraps up successful Listening Tour in Yap

Habele directors meet with Habele scholarship winners and families.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Habele directors and supporters just completed their 2012 "Listening Tour" in Yap State, Micronesia. Meetings were held with state government officials, traditional chiefs, public and private school educators, as well as parents and community members in the villages.

Shortly before the trip, Yap State legislators passed a resolution officially praising Habele's six years of service to the students of Yap. The speaker and governor both communicated their belief that targeting support for students in intermediate and high school grades remains the best use of the charity's limited resources.

The Council of Tamol and other traditional leaders encouraged Habele to expand its mission to serve all economically disadvantaged students, rather than only those from outer and distant lagoon islands.

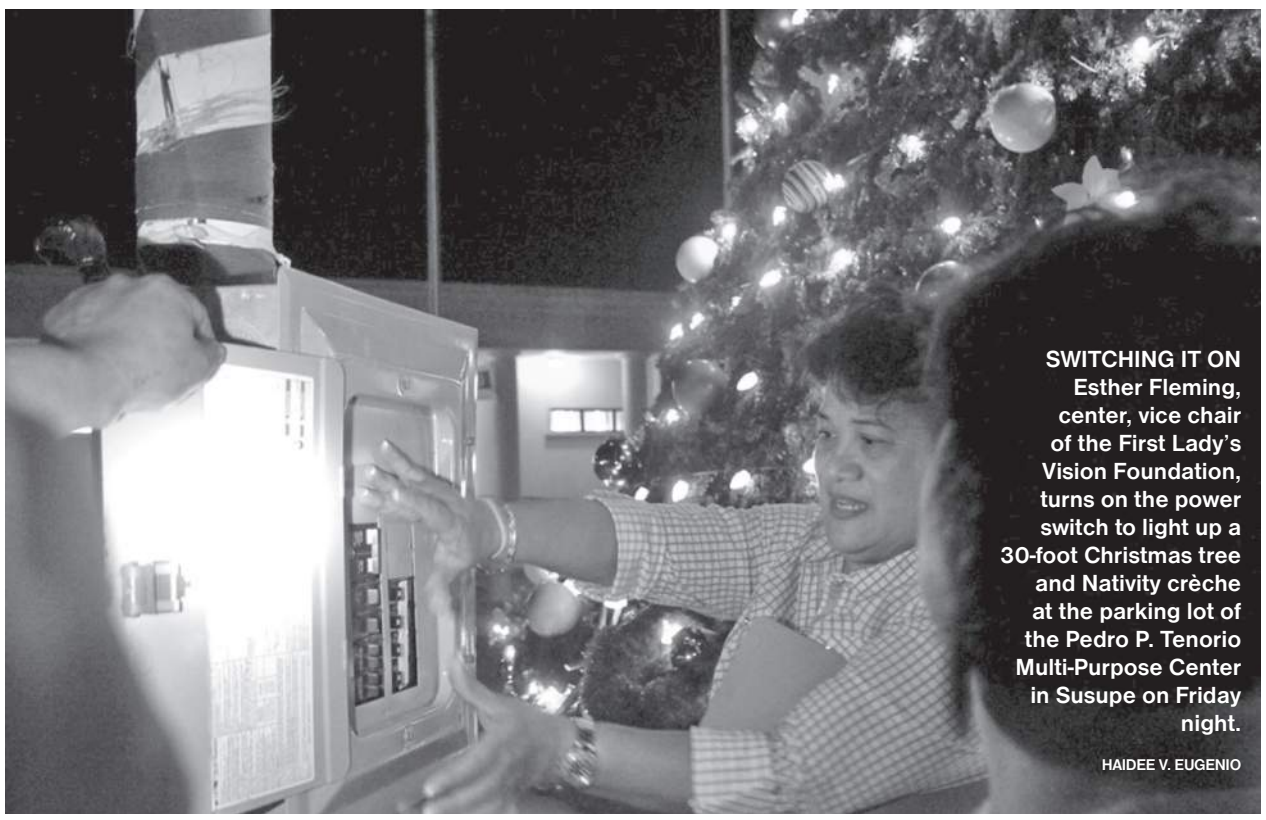
Principals and teachers told Habele directors that after-school programs such as Waa'gey (traditional canoe carving and weaving) and the Vex Robotics clubs have been genuine "game changers" for participating students. They asked for support to expand these extracurricular efforts during the directors' site visit to schools on Yap and in the Outer Islands.

The women's associations and the Waa'gey traditional skills programs also thanked Habele for its donations of materials and funds. They both asked for Habele's support in raising awareness of their work outside of Micronesia. Finally, public and private school educators asked Habele to repeat the statewide "Dictionary For Every Eighth Grader" donation on a yearly basis.

Regina Raigetal, a Habele director, explained: "The feedback was constructive; the encouragement thrilling. Parents and educators communicated a genuine sense of gratitude. They want Habele to grow and gave us specific, actionable program ideas."

"The social and economic challenges faced by Yap—and all of Micronesia—represent an opportunity for Habele," said Neil Mellen, another Habele board director. "Our targeted programs for students are academically effective and economically efficient. Habele's slow-and-steady grassroots growth strategy is being validated by praise and encouragement among official leaders and, more importantly, 'back in the villages.'"

"As the only U.S.-based nonprofit solely serving students in Micronesia, Habele's position remains unique and our ability to affect positive change enormous," added Raigetal. ***(Habele)***



SWITCHING IT ON Esther Fleming, center, vice chair of the First Lady's Vision Foundation, turns on the power switch to light up a 30-foot Christmas tree and Nativity crèche at the parking lot of the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe on Friday night.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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MEMBER
The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Breaking the Middle East war cycle is the only route to peace

We won't spend too much space here calling for a cease-fire between Israel and Hamas. Officials from Egypt, Turkey, Qatar, Britain, the U.S. and the United Nations already are working on a truce with an urgency that reflects the very high stakes if fighting escalates into an Israeli ground invasion of Gaza. The fuse keeps burning shorter atop the Middle East powder keg. So, yes: Cease fire now.

Israel and its neighbors have been through six wars and countless armed altercations since 1948. Each time, the world unites in calling for peace. The warring parties stand down. But over time, tensions resurface, tit-for-tat attacks resume, and eventually, another war is in full bloom.

The point is, for decades, Middle East enemies have been locked in a basic argument over who committed which egregious act of aggression first. Ask Israel, and the finger points to its neighbors. Ask the Arabs, and the blame goes back to Israel. Historical evidence supports aspects of both arguments.

It makes for a great scholarly debate. But on the ground, this argument plays itself out with tragic results. Israel's offensive is justified to silence Hamas' indiscriminate rocket attacks. Hamas says Gaza's 1.67 million inhabitants are under perpetual military siege. Human Rights Watch says Israeli drone attacks too often hit nonmilitary targets far from where rockets are being launched. Israel could make the same argument about Hamas rockets. Civilians on both sides pay a heavy price, which serves as justification for more fighting.

The solution is not just to negotiate another cease-fire; it's to break this cycle.

Of course that's easier said than done, but that doesn't mean it's impossible. Egypt and Jordan recognized long ago that the cycle couldn't continue because the cost of continually going to war was too great. They negotiated imperfect peace treaties that didn't come close to redressing theirs or Israel's historical grievances, but they did so acknowledging that the cycle had to stop.

Recall that the Palestine Liberation Organization, just like Hamas today, used to voice its grievances by constantly lobbing Katyusha rockets into Israel from southern Lebanon—until Israel silenced them for good with its 1982 invasion of Lebanon. The PLO eventually negotiated a partial peace, which explains why the West Bank, governed by the PLO's dominant Fatah faction, has been spared Gaza's bloodshed. Now southern Lebanon belongs to Hezbollah, suggesting Israel has only traded one headache for another. Both Hamas and Hezbollah are allied with Iran, a bigger headache.

Breaking the cycle requires a mutual acceptance that no one will win and that serious compromise among sworn enemies is the only route to peace. This medicine leaves a bitter aftertaste. But it's the only medicine that works.

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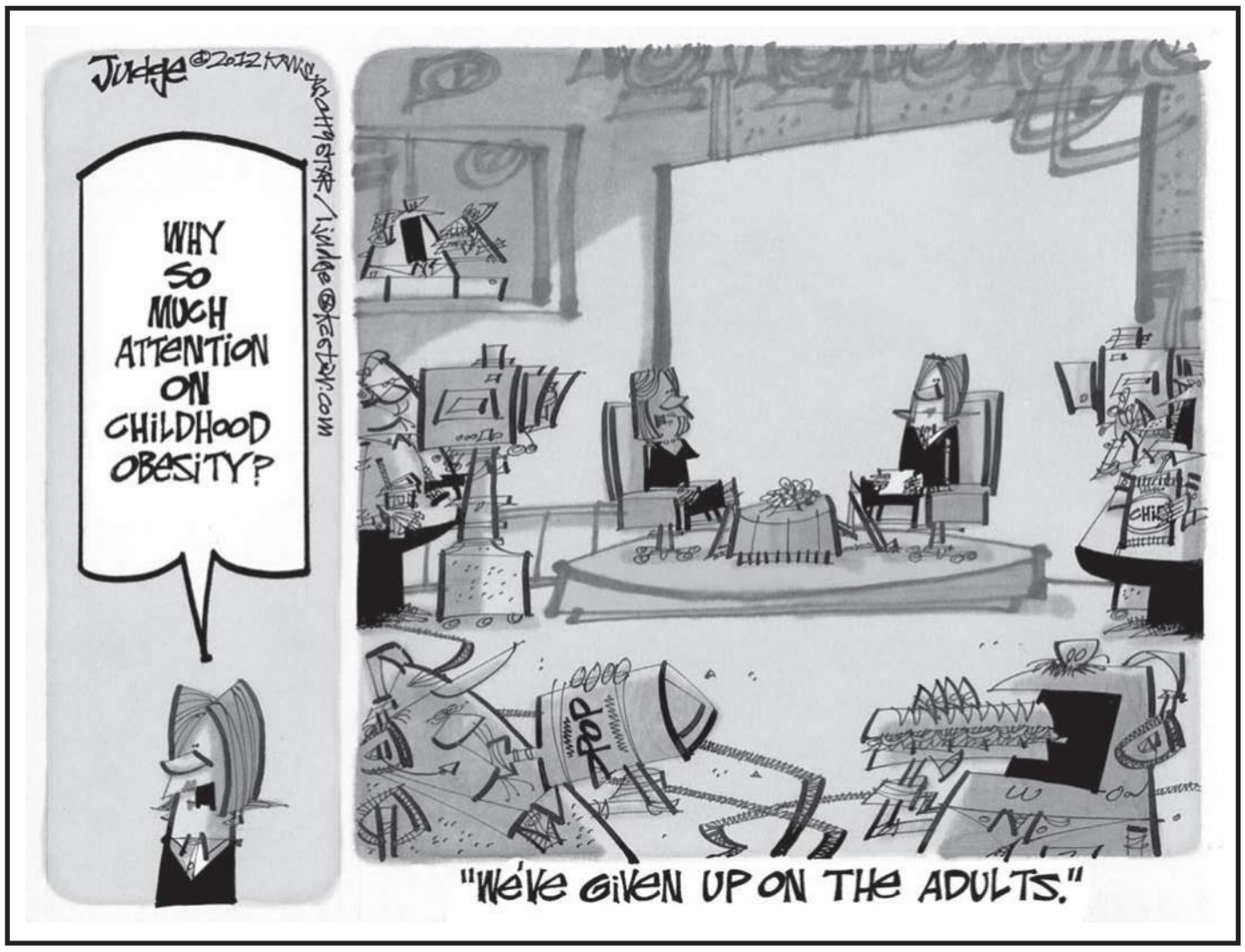


Wahaha in China

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime R. Vergara (jrvergarajr2031@aol.com) is a former PSS teacher and is currently writing from the campus of Shenyang Aerospace University in China.

It is not a variation of the song "crying in the rain." We've been crying daily since the weather decided to keep the snow on the ground. Our response is totally reflexive, perhaps a sign of our age. The stinging cold just draws the tears out of the ducts. I lived in cold Saskatchewan, Canada, three decades ago and we knew not of this phenomenon. The students may think us sentimental for being in tears all the time! We do not mind that. It is the frozen snot that sits unnoticed at the portal of our nostril that tends to diminish our glamour!

Zong Qinghou of Hangzhou, Zhejiang, (city of the famed West Lake) does not have my predicament. The CEO of the Wahaha Group, considered to be China's wealthiest individual, is personally worth $20 billion.

Zong's beginning is common enough. He missed higher education when he went countryside as part of China's cultural revolution. When his teacher mom retired, he worked as a laborer and the absence of an onionskin certificate got him only low-paying jobs in spite of his being a determined and competent workaholic. So he went into business when Deng Xiaoping held the helm.

With two retired school teachers, he sold drinks and popsicles to school children, and then took over a failing bottling company, renamed it Wahaha (*wa-ha-ha* a "child laughing") to produce milk-based nutritious beverages for children, established a nationwide distribution network, and got uploaded enough in the corporate stream at a time when private entrepreneurship was encouraged in China.

He took over state-owned ailing ventures and invested west in Chongqing and Sichuan. That provided the company cheaper labor. He then partnered with the French Groupe Danone (of Evian fame) with the company 51 percent foreign-owned, getting his operation outside government regulatory grip on domestic companies.

Though autocratic and charismatic in leadership style, he recognized the communal basis of business practiced in Zhejiang so he ensured that his workers were part-owners of the company. He had a falling off in 2007 with the Danone Group (known as Dannon, the yogurt company in the U.S.) that accused him of running a shadow parallel operation, keeping profits away from the foreign partners. He has since had tax accountability problems, paid fines, and continues to be investigated for tax evasion.

His tiff with his foreign partner earned him the image of "David" fighting "Goliath." Ironically, Danone's beginnings was from a Jewish yogurt manufacturing concern that transferred out of Franco's Catalan to Paris until the Vichy in WWII showed its anti-Semitism. The company then moved to NY/USA. Presently headquartered in Paris, the giant corporation is shedding its Goliath image by narrowing its business concerns into limited David core products. It remains, nevertheless, a Goliath-sized global operation.

Zong's personal style has not changed much. He keeps his meals under $20, and skews the flamboyant lifestyle of the nouveau riche. Still, his meal cost per day is 30 percent of a common worker's monthly earnings, and that puts Mr. Zong in the awkward position of decrying the current wealth gap in China at the National People's Congress while holding on to purse strings worth more than a few hundred thousand lifetimes of Chinese workers. Elected in 2002, re-elected in 2007, it will be interesting to see how he fares at the March 2003 gathering.

His wife is the purchasing manager of Wahaha, and his daughter is chief of marketing. His lifestyle might be simple, but daughter parks a Maserati at the office parking lot, indicating someone who hangs out with the Fiat-Alfa Romeo-Ferrari crowd. Zong and wife reportedly hold U.S. green cards and daughter is a U.S. citizen. This has tarnished Zong's reputation as a defender of the common Chinese worker.

Wahaha remains in the nutritious drink business but got catapulted to more profits by bottled water, and has since become too big to fail. Exports now reach U.S. Chinatowns; might even be on Saipan. Zong's backside along with his assets would be covered by Uncle Sam's green card and daughter's citizenship.

Wahaha's foreign competition in China raked in more profit than what Wall Street could have imagined. Wahaha's "Future Cola" only commands a minority share of a market led by giants Coke and Pepsi. China's urban centers are pockmarked with the ubiquitous triumvirate of fast food burgers, pizzas, and fried chicken, usually parked together in the same mall or street.

Income distribution in China is similar to that of the United States. The United States' 1 percent shelters in Caribbean coves and islets; China's 1 percent hold exit travel tickets.

At the turn of the millennium, egalitarian China started bewailing how the new widening income gap in the nation may not be so desirable for the whole after all. Twelve years later, no less than the CPC General Secretary Hu Jintao warned the Party Congress that if income distribution is not made more equitable (along with curtailing official corruption) the future of country (1.4 billion folks) and the Party (80 million members (that's China's 1 percent) in the coming decade is at stake.

Wahaha turns out to be no laughing matter.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Avoiding the 'fiscal cliff' yet falling anyway

By MICHAEL HILTZIK
LOS ANGELES TIMES

It would be bad enough if the purveyors of economic and fiscal misdirection had done no more than describe a certain event looming at the end of this year as the "fiscal cliff."

The imagery evokes an elemental crisis that can be avoided only by the heroic efforts of our statesmen in Washington. But in fact it's entirely their creation. The automatic tax increases and deep spending cuts could be avoided by the stroke of a pen.

But they haven't stopped with merely applying a misleading label. They've aimed their rescue efforts at fiscal nostrums that do nothing to address the truly urgent economic issues facing American workers and businesses today. They've confined the discussion of tax reform to tweaks that will leave virtually intact the most important tax break for the wealthy (the preferential treatment of investment income), while turning their gun sights on government programs that keep millions of Americans healthy and out of poverty (think Medicare and Social Security).

Make no mistake: The valiant budget negotiators at work in Congress and the White House are mapping out a plan for economic austerity under the guise of "getting our house in order." This is despite blindingly obvious evidence that what's needed in the U.S. today is the opposite—more stimulus to jump-start job creation, and more spending on infrastructure from roads and bridges to communications and electrical grids.

Do you doubt that? Then look at the paragon of post-crash austerity: Europe. Harsh budget cuts in Greece, Spain, Portugal and Italy, along with austere fiscal regimes in France and Britain, have pushed the Eurozone back into recession.

American policymakers are still talking about budget-cutting as some sort of moral imperative. Who benefits from this sort of willful blindness? Not the average job-seeking American. Most of the pain from this new regime will be inflicted on the middle class and working class.

President Obama has declared himself determined to increase the share of taxes paid by the wealthy. But he has also hinted that he might be amenable to proposals to raise taxes by ratcheting back certain deductions, such as those for mortgage interest and employer-provided health insurance.

Tellingly, one of the most important tax breaks for the wealthy never seems to be on the table: the preferential low tax rate on long-term capital gains (on assets held at least one year) and some other investment income. It's currently 15 percent but scheduled to rise to 20 percent if the Bush tax cuts expire. Meanwhile, taxpayers who file as married couples are paying more than 20 percent on every dollar of wage income they report over about $79,000 this year.

If you want to know why eliminating the capital gains preference is so seldom mentioned, it's because it's cherished by the wealthy more than any other break. In 2011, capital income accounted for about 42 percent of all income collected by taxpayers earning more than $1 million, who receive two-thirds of the benefit of the cap gains tax break. For those earning between $75,000 and $100,000, capital income accounts for a measly 3.6 percent of income.

The shibboleth that gives urgency to the fiscal cliff talks is the idea that only tax increases and spending cuts can rescue the U.S. from unsustainable deficits. "You can't grow your way out of this," former Sen. Alan Simpson, the Wyoming Republican appointed by President Obama as co-chair of his 2010 deficit commission, said on CNBC recently.

That sounds suitably admonitory, but it's not quite true. The vast bulk of today's deficits are not structural but cyclical—the result of spending designed to address the financial crisis and the Great Recession, the effects of which are still with us.

History shows that economic growth can do wonders to reduce government deficits and debt. The national debt as a ratio of GDP peaked at 120 percent in 1947, reflecting wartime spending. By 1958 that ratio had been cut in half, and by the end of the '60s by nearly half again.

Indeed, economic growth in recent quarters already has cut into the deficit as a share of GDP, bringing it down from 10 percent, the level it reached in the aftermath of the 2008 crash, to about 7 percent today. The Office of Management and Budget projects that the ratio will fall further, to about 3.2 percent by 2015, based on the assumption that the Bush tax cuts will expire, emergency spending will ebb, and the economy will be about 20 percent larger than it is today (not an unreasonable projection, providing that growth isn't strangled by spending cuts already on the table).

Such a trend line "would likely calm widespread fears of a 'fiscal crisis,'" economist James W. Paulsen, chief investment strategist at San Francisco-based Wells Capital Management, wrote recently. "Perhaps we do not need any Grand Bargain."

So what's the proper course for economic policy in the near term?

The economic record tells us that higher marginal tax rates on the wealthy have no correlation with lower economic growth. As a recent study of 65 years of data by the Congressional Research Service concluded, "The top tax rates have little or no relation to the size of the economic pie."

On the other hand, spending cuts imposed during slumps do have a direct effect on the economy—they're like sand in the gears of recovery. That's the signal from Europe about the consequences of austerity, reinforced by the fragility of an American recovery insufficiently supported by government.

Michael Hiltzik is a columnist for the Los Angeles Times. *Reach him at mhiltzik@latimes.com.*

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

I smell a rat

This is in reply to Ray M. Bermudes of Dandan, Saipan ("Food for thought," *Saipan Tribune*, Nov. 22, 2012). I would like to thank you for praising my opinion in your letter to the editor (*Saipan Tribune,* Sept. 10, 2010). I rarely read your opinion in the media and I take your opinion to heart. What makes the United States of America the place to live above all other countries is that anyone or any group can have their share of opinion. Hate and stereotyping are typical in today's social setting throughout the world. We speak highly of the United States of America for being the humanitarian capital of the world, but we do not realize that it is the worst place when it comes to stereotyping.

You mentioned that this is the time for changes within our government and impeaching the governor will bring solutions to all our problems in our dearest island chain. I differentiate with your opinion for many reasons. I smell rat from Virginia or Maryland. All the corruption charges against our governor are the work of outside forces and the pattern reflects the doing of a very sophisticated political consultant from the mainland.

Based on historical events throughout the United States, politicians take advantage of the situation within their community. In the case of the CNMI, we had been experiencing bad economic downturn due to world events, such as the SARS epidemic in Asia, the tsunami in Japan, the World Trade Organization agreement on manufactured garments, and the real estate bust in the United States. Our economy is mainly tourist based and the financial assistance from the so-called United States of America. Many of us are in survival mode and we are very frustrated with our economic situation. This is when our aspiring politicians are using our frustration and suffering. Many of our politicians are using our fear for their future political gain in the name of doing the righteous thing. The politicians who concoct the corruptions charges against our governor are the very people who have contributed to corruption within the CNMI government in the past. The governor is being targeted for other politicians' political gain for the 2014 general election.

Corruption goes hand in hand with any form of government. You stated that unqualified individuals within the present administration will be let go, but you are forgetting that these positions will be given to supporters, families, and friends again. A trustworthy senator had stated that such practices will not disappear in our lifetime, let alone overnight.

Our problem is not the governor; it is the greed, the bickering, and the lack of cooperation within our two branches of government. The legislative and the executive branch should work together to better our people's way of life. Money generating bills should be prioritized. Bills that had been introduced have been sitting in committees for review and no actions have been taken, because for retaliatory actions for not confirming the governor's appointees. We pleaded with the House speaker on behalf of a revenue generating bill that we helped introduced in the Senate, to no avail. The bill is sitting in a committee for action in the lower house. The bickering and disagreements within our legislative body are the utmost culprit for our suffering in the CNMI.

Replacing our Executive Branch will not guarantee stopping the corruption within our government, but it is a sign of our human weakness and stereotyping or hatred. Hate is not the answer in our life and it will only add fuel to our present dilemma within our society. Life in general is an educational process and it sets precedents for our future generations. Don't be misled by the individuals who want to project themselves in the 2014 CNMI general election and are using our frustration as their ticket to their greed.

Segundo Castro
Fresno, California

Words of advice

The new House of Representatives is beginning to take shape and form by the assignment of the chairmanships to the specific committees. The CNMI electorate doesn't not have a clear understanding of how these committees are filled, hence what predictors could be had to ascertain the successful performance of the next Legislature is all too familiar, and the kicker to the process is that it remains to be seen. But the whole thing is a work in progress and we the electorate would just have to sit tight and wait for things to happen the usual way.

It is certain, however, that the leadership in this next Legislature would start shifting paradigms and taking charge of changes in the political and economic landscape of the CNMI. We expect our elected leaders to be guided by intelligence, virtues in will, and virtues in passion. All these features of a good elected leader should assure the electorate that we will get a good return on our investment from all those we elected for offices this year. And so we take every opportunity to express our message to them in the hope that their contributions to the public good are indeed only that—"public good" fostered by the command of public interest.

To this we send our advice to give them clarity and purpose. It is safe to quote the Bible, and in particular we can say: "Walk with wise men and you will become wise, but the companion of fools will fare badly" (Proverbs, 13:20). Also, "frequent the company of the elders; whoever is wise, stay close to him" (Sirach 6:34). Lastly, "take no counsel with a fool, for he can keep nothing to himself" (Sirach 8:17).

Francisco R. Agulto
Kannat Tabla, Saipan

No surprises

This is my personal view and reaction on the latest development in the lawsuit that we filed against the implementation of the federalization law in the Commonwealth. The "court order" was not a surprise for us. Why?

First: We don't have the financial resources to finance the litigation. We tried our best to reach out for help through media, social gatherings, and organizations but only a handful of individuals from among the thousands came to support us. We had the courage to challenge the rules of law but we are not lawyers, therefore we need lawyers, but lawyers cost money—money that we can't raise.

Second: We wanted to continue our advocacy because we know that the merit is obvious, the merit is going on and on as time passes by, but we don't have the support from our constituents for whom we are fighting for. Why should we continue to do so? Is there any reason to pursue it?

Last: We would like to say thank you to those who supported us from the very beginning, and sorry if we failed to achieve our goals and dreams as expected. We should now prepare ourselves to leave the islands one at a time come 2014, instead of pursuing something that is hard to achieve. Frank Lloyd Wright said, "The truth is more important than the facts" but the final regulations are concealing the truth. Thank you for your support. God bless everyone.

Carlito J. Marquez
Puerto Rico, Saipan

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Mostly sunny with isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 5 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲89° ▼77°	▲89° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

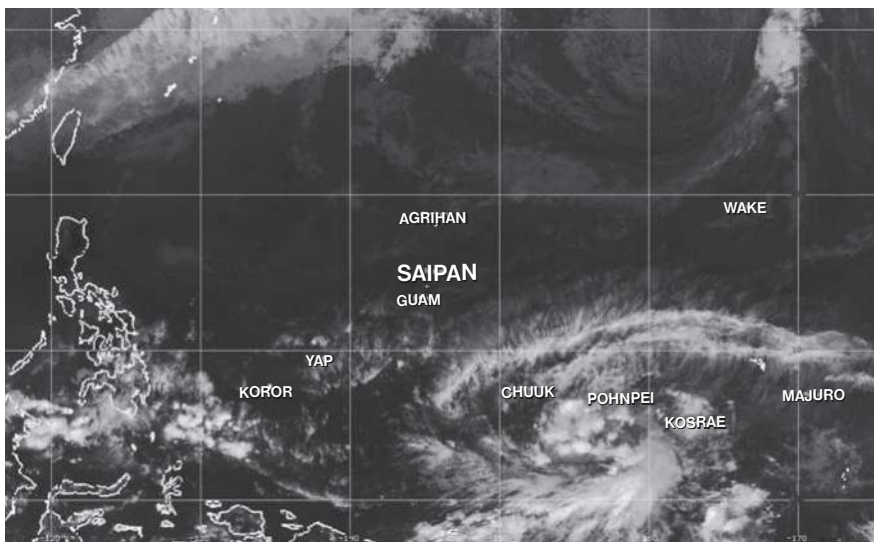
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	▲86	▼79
Palau	Showers	▲86	▼77
Yap	Mostly Sunny	▲89	▼77
Chuuk	Cloudy	▲87	▼79
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲88	▼77
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲88	▼77
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	▲86	▼81

Around The Globe

Auckland	Mostly Cloudy	▲66	▼62
Beijing	Sunny	▲43	▼25
Hong Kong	Showers	▲70	▼63
Honolulu	Showers	▲81	▼69
London	Showers	▲46	▼40
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	▲68	▼50
Manila	Sunny	▲89	▼79
Melbourne	Showers	▲77	▼54
Miami	Sunny	▲79	▼67
New York	Sunny	▲48	▼34
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲52	▼42
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	▲45	▼42
Pusan	Sunny	▲49	▼35
Rome	Showers	▲61	▼55
Salem	Partly Cloudy	▲48	▼36
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	▲66	▼51
Seoul	Sunny	▲40	▼29
Tokyo	Sunny	▲55	▼42
Washington, DC	Sunny	▲54	▼41

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, MONDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2012
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Tropical Depression 26W is centered 380 miles southeast of Chuuk at 4N156E moving toward northwest at 8 mph with maximum sustained winds of 35 mph. Scattered heavy showers and isolated thunderstorms are south of a line from 4N146E to 7N155E to 6N164E. For more information on TD26W, refer to bulletins issued by the Joint Typhoon Warning Center under WMO header WTPN31 PGTW and by the National Weather Service under WMO header WTPQ31 PGUM. A cold front curves west-southwestward from north of Wake Island at 25N166E to 20N159E to 24N140E. Scattered showers are found along and up to 120 miles northwest of the front from 25N166E to 21N162E. Patchy clouds and showers are seen along and up to 200 miles north of this front from 21N162E to 24N140E. Trade-wind convergence is generating scattered showers and a few thunderstorms south of Koror between 2N and 6N from 130E to 135E and south of Majuro between 2N and 5N from 170E to 174E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

12:52 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet
7:45 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
1:03 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.1 Feet
6:02 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:25 AM	5:44 PM
Wednesday	6:26 AM	5:44 PM
Thursday	6:26 AM	5:44 PM
Friday	6:27 AM	5:45 PM
Saturday	6:27 AM	5:45 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	4:44 PM	5:02 AM
Wednesday	5:29 PM	5:51 AM
Thursday	6:16 PM	6:41 AM
Friday	7:05 PM	7:29 AM
Saturday	7:05 PM	7:29 AM

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  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
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  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

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- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

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- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOV. 21, 2012

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5062	4:40am	5:30am	1, 3, 5
UA5068	8:25am	9:15am	Daily
UA5074	11:10am	12:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily
UA5078	6:55pm	7:45pm	Daily
UA5072	9:45pm	10:35pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:00am	8:40am	Daily
DL297	4:25pm	7:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-PUSAN (BUS)

0Z608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 6, 7
0Z608	3:30am	6:40am	3

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

0Z606	2:10am	6:00am	1
0Z606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
0Z604	3:20pm	7:10pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU7108	2:50am	5:55am	1, 3, 5

SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-VLADIVOSTOK (VVO)

VLK1734	2:00am	8:15am	5 every other week

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

0Z606/701	2:10am	11:15am	1
0Z606/701	2:40am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:00am	10:20pm	Daily via NRT
UA5076/183	3:10pm	9:25pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5076/183	3:10pm	9:45pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
0Z604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN
UA5072/PR111	9:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

0Z606/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
0Z606/721	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5076/147	3:10pm	10:30pm	1, 5 via GUM
0Z604/749	3:20pm	11:20pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA 5069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5071	7:05am	7:55am	Daily
UA5073	9:50am	10:40am	Daily
UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5077	5:35pm	6:25pm	Daily
UA5079	8:20pm	9:10pm	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:40pm	1:15am+1	Daily

PUSAN (BUS)-SAIPAN

0Z607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 5, 6
0Z607	9:35pm	2:25am+1	2

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

0Z603	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily
0Z605	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
0Z605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU7107	6:30pm	1:50am+1	2, 4, 7

GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

VLADIVOSTOK (VVO)-SAIPAN

VLK1733	8:00pm	12:05am+1	4 every other week

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

0Z704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
DL172/288	8:00am	1:15am+1	Daily via NRT
UA190/5077	10:55am	6:25pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/5079	10:55am	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA702/605	12:10pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
0Z702/605	12:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA5071	10:10pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5071	10:55pm	7:55am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:59pm	7:55am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

0Z746/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
0Z724/605	1:50pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
0Z724/605	1:50pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA180/5073	11:25pm	10:40am+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air.

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

Business

Cyber Monday likely to be busiest online sales day

NEW YORK (AP)—Bye-bye Black Friday. So long Small Business Saturday. Now, it's Cyber Monday's turn.

Cyber Monday, coined in 2005 by a shopping trade group that noticed online sales spiked on the Monday following Thanksgiving, is the next in a series of days that stores are counting on to jumpstart the holiday shopping season.

It's estimated that this year's Cyber Monday will be the biggest online shopping day of the year for the third year in a row: According to research firm comScore, Americans are expected to spend $1.5 billion, up 20 percent from last year on Cyber Monday, as retailers have ramped up their deals to get shoppers to click on their websites.

Amazon.com, which is starting its Cyber Monday deals at midnight on Monday, is offering as much as 60 percent off a Panasonic VIERA 55-inch TV that's usually priced higher than $1,000. Sears is offering $430 off a Maytag washer and dryer, each on sale for $399. And Kmart is offering 75 percent off all of its diamond earrings and $60 off a 12-in-1 multigame table on sale for $89.99.

Retailers are hoping the deals will appeal to shoppers like Matt Sexton, 39, who for the first time plans to complete all of his holiday shopping online this year on his iPad tablet computer. Sexton, who plans to spend up to $4,000 this season, already shopped online on the day after Thanksgiving known as Black Friday and found a laptop from Best Buy for $399, a $200 savings, among other deals.

"The descriptions and reviews are so much better online so you can compare and price shop and for the most part get free shipping," said Sexton, who lives in Queens, N.Y., and is a manager at a utility company.

Sexton also said that it's easier to return an online purchase to a physical store than it had been in previous years. "That helps with gifts," he said.

How well retailers fare on Cyber Monday will offer insight into Americans' evolving shopping habits during the holiday shopping season, a time when stores can make up to 40 percent of their annual revenue. With the growth in high speed Internet access and the wide use of smartphones and tablets, people are relying less on their work computers to shop than they did when Shop.org, the digital division of trade group The National Retail Federation, introduced the term "Cyber Monday."

Holiday shopping season off to record start

NEW YORK (AP)—If you make holiday shopping convenient, Americans will come in droves.

It's estimated that U.S. shoppers hit stores and websites at record numbers over the Thanksgiving weekend, according to a survey released by the National Retail Federation on Sunday. They were attracted by retailers' efforts to make shopping easier, including opening stores on Thanksgiving evening, updating mobile shopping applications for smartphones and tablets, and expanding shipping and layaway options.

All told, a record 247 million shoppers visited stores and websites over the four-day weekend starting on Thanksgiving, up 9.2 percent of last year, according to a survey of 4,000 shoppers that was conducted by research firm BIGinsight for the trade group. Americans spent more too: The average holiday shopper spent $423 over the entire weekend, up from $398 last year. Total spending over the four-day weekend totaled $59.1 billion, up 12.8 percent from 2011.

Caitlyn Maguire, 21, was one of the shoppers that took advantage of all the new conveniences of shopping this year. Maguire, who lives in New York, began buying on Thanksgiving night at Target's East Harlem store. During the two-hour wait in line, she also bought items on her iPhone on Amazon.com. On Friday, she picked up a few toys at Toys R Us. And on Saturday she was out at the stores again.

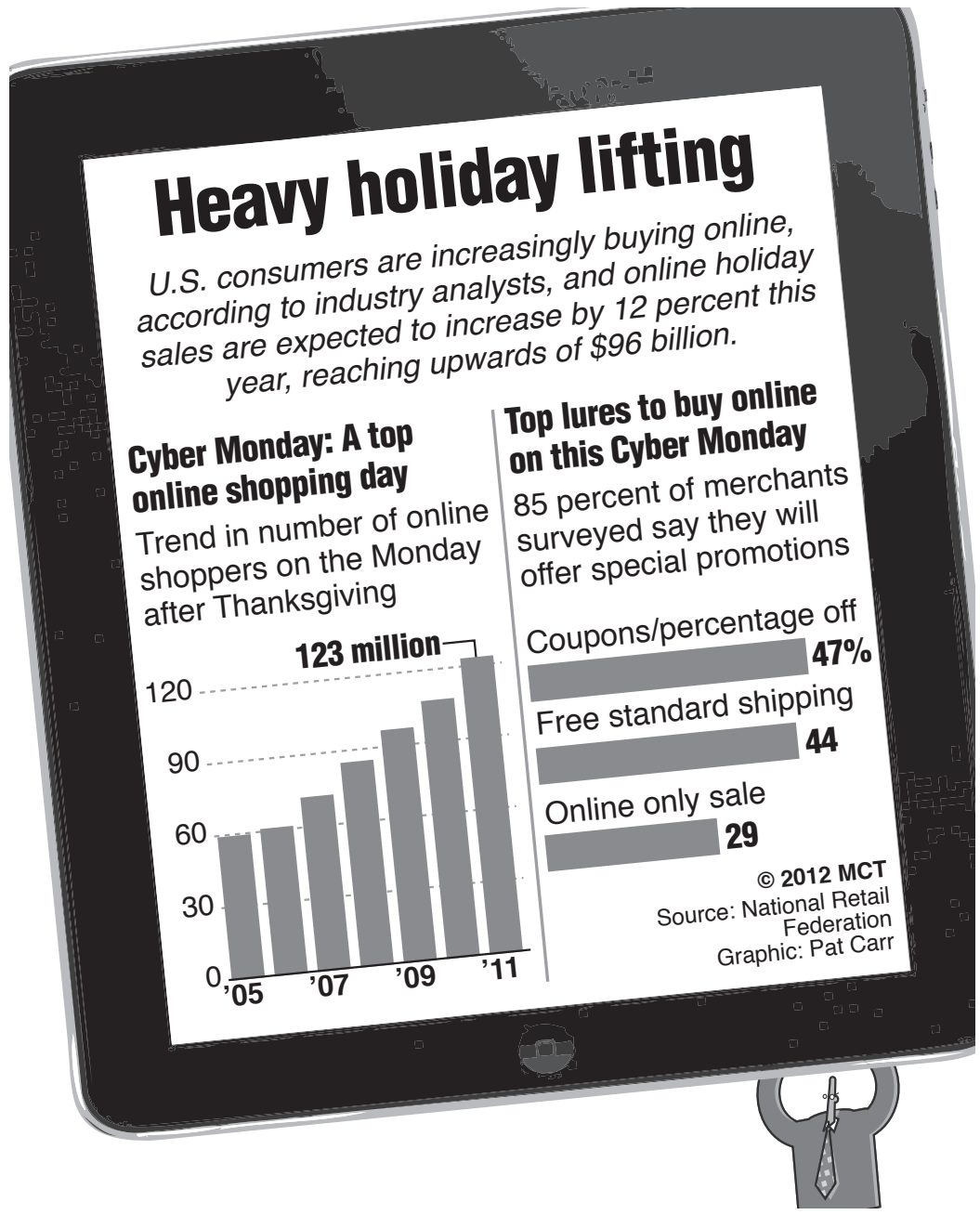
"I'm basically done," said Maguire, who spent about $400 over the weekend.

The results for the weekend appear to show that retailers' efforts to make shopping effortless for U.S. consumers during the holiday shopping season worked. Retailers upped the ante in order to give Americans more reasons to shop. Stores feared that consumers might not spend because of the weak job market and worries that tax increases and budget cuts will take effect if Congress fails to reach a budget deal by January.

Retailers, which can make up to 40 percent of their annual revenue in November and December, were hoping Thanksgiving openings and other incentives would help boost what's expected to be a difficult holiday shopping season. The National Retail Federation estimates that overall sales in November and December will rise 4.1 percent this year to $586.1 billion. That's more than a percentage point lower than the growth in each of the past two years, and the smallest increase since 2009, when sales were nearly flat.

Matthew Shay, president and CEO of the National Retail Federation, said retailers can be encouraged by the first weekend of the holiday shopping season.

"Retailers and consumers both won this weekend, especially on Thanksgiving," he said.


Heavy holiday lifting
U.S. consumers are increasingly buying online, according to industry analysts, and online holiday sales are expected to increase by 12 percent this year, reaching upwards of $96 billion.
Cyber Monday: A top online shopping day
Trend in number of online shoppers on the Monday after Thanksgiving
123 million
120
90
60
30
0
'05
'07
'09
'11
Top lures to buy online on this Cyber Monday
85 percent of merchants surveyed say they will offer special promotions
Coupons/percentage off 47%
Free standard shipping 44
Online only sale 29
© 2012 MCT
Source: National Retail Federation
Graphic: Pat Carr

Utility worker pierced pipe before Mass. gas blast

SPRINGFIELD, Mass. (AP)—A natural gas explosion that injured 18 people and damaged 42 buildings in Springfield's entertainment district was blamed Sunday on a utility worker who accidentally punctured a high-pressure pipeline while looking for a leak.

State Fire Marshal Stephen Coan said the Friday night blast in one of New England's largest cities was caused by "human error." He didn't name the Columbia Gas Co. worker who pierced the pipe while responding to reports of a gas leak.

The worker damaged the underground pipe while using a metal tool to locate the source of the leak, Coan said. A flood of gas then built up in a building that housed a strip club, and some kind of spark touched off the blast, officials said.

Coan said the employee was following older markings on a sidewalk that indicated the location of the gas line. He appeared to be an appropriate distance from the line, but the markings were incorrect and the worker accidentally punctured the pipe.

A message left for a Columbia Gas spokeswoman wasn't immediately returned. Columbia Gas, a subsidiary of public company NiSource Inc., said earlier Sunday that it plans to open a claims center at City Hall on Monday for residents and businesses affected by the explosion.

Preliminary reports show the blast damaged 42 buildings housing 115 residential units. Three buildings were immediately condemned, and 24 others require additional inspections by structural engineers to determine whether they are safe. The building that housed the Scores Gentleman's Club was destroyed.

After the pipe was ruptured, authorities evacuated several buildings. Most of the people injured were part of a group of gas workers, firefighters and police officers who ducked for cover behind a utility truck just before the blast. The truck was demolished.

Some officials said it was a miracle no one was killed. Springfield Fire Commissioner Joseph Conant praised the actions of city firefighters.

"The firefighters did an excellent job evacuating the area which certainly prevented additional civilian injuries and saved many lives," Conant said.

Columbia Gas officials have been cooperating with investigators and have determined that there are no more gas leaks in the neighborhood, Mayor Domenic Sarno said.

Coan said the investigation is being turning over to the state Department of Public Utilities. It's not clear whether investigators will ever be able to determine what caused the spark that ignited the explosion.

Springfield, which is 90 miles west of Boston and has about 150,000 residents, is the largest city in western Massachusetts. It's known as the home of the Basketball Hall of Fame, which is not near the blast site.

The city has been rebuilding from damage caused by a tornado in June 2011.

Natural gas drillers target US truck, bus market

SCRANTON, Pa. (AP)—If the trash truck or bus rolling down your street seems a little quieter these days, you're not imagining things. It's probably running on natural gas.

Surging gas production has led the drilling industry to seek out new markets for its product, and energy companies, increasingly, are setting their sights on the transportation sector.

Touting natural gas as a cheaper, cleaner-burning alternative to gasoline and diesel, drillers, public utilities and government officials are trying to boost demand for natural gas buses, taxis, shuttles, delivery trucks and heavy-duty work vehicles of all sorts, while simultaneously encouraging development of the fueling infrastructure that will be needed to keep them running.

The economics are compelling. Natural gas costs about $1.50 to $2 per gallon equivalent less than gasoline and diesel. That can add up to tens of thousands of dollars in savings for vehicles that guzzle the most fuel.

Fleet managers are taking notice. Companies as diverse as AT&T, Waste Management and UPS are converting all or parts of their fleets to natural gas, as are transit agencies, municipalities and state governments.

"Now that you can save a dollar or two dollars a gallon, there's huge interest in the market, especially in those fleets that use a lot of fuel," said Richard Kolodziej, president of the trade group Natural Gas Vehicles for America.

Waste Management, the nation's largest trash hauler, has committed to replacing 80 percent of its fleet with trucks powered by natural gas. Rich Mogan, the company's district manager in southwestern Pennsylvania, said about half of his fleet of 100 trucks now run on the cheaper fuel. They are quieter and less expensive to maintain, he said, and "we are looking at a 50 percent reduction in our (fuel) cost."

Nation

Feds: Teachers embroiled in test-taking fraud

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP)—It was a brazen and surprisingly long-lived scheme, authorities said, to help aspiring public school teachers cheat on the tests they must pass to prove they are qualified to lead their classrooms.

For 15 years, teachers in three Southern states paid Clarence Mumford Sr.—himself a longtime educator—to send someone else to take the tests in their place, authorities said. Each time, Mumford received a fee of between $1,500 and $3,000 to send one of his test ringers with fake identification to the Praxis exam. In return, his customers got a passing grade and began their careers as cheaters, according to federal prosecutors in Memphis.

Authorities say the scheme affected hundreds—if not thousands—of public school students who ended up being taught by unqualified instructors.

Mumford faces more than 60 fraud and conspiracy charges that claim he created fake driver's licenses with the information of a teacher or an aspiring teacher and attached the photograph of a test-taker. Prospective teachers are accused of giving Mumford their Social Security numbers for him to make the fake identities.

The hired-test takers went to testing centers, showed the proctor the fake license, and passed the certification exam, prosecutors say. Then, the aspiring teacher used the test score to secure a job with a public school district, the indictment alleges. Fourteen people have been charged with mail and Social Security fraud, and four people have pleaded guilty to charges associated with the scheme.

Mumford "obtained tens of thousands of dollars" during the alleged conspiracy, which prosecutors say lasted from 1995 to 2010 in Arkansas, Mississippi and Tennessee.

Among those charged is former University of Tennessee and NFL wide receiver Cedrick Wilson, who is accused of employing a test-taker for a Praxis physical education exam. He was charged in late October with four counts of Social Security and mail fraud. He has pleaded not guilty and is out of jail on a $10,000 bond. He has been suspended by the Memphis City Schools system.

If convicted, Mumford could face between two and 20 years in prison on each count. The teachers face between two and 20 years in prison on each count if convicted.

Lawyers for Mumford and Wilson did not return calls for comment.

Prosecutors and standardized test experts say students were hurt the most by the scheme because they were being taught by unqualified teachers. It also sheds some light on the nature of cheating and the lengths people go to in order to get ahead.

"As technology keeps advancing, there are more and more ways to cheat on tests of this kind," said Neal Kingston, director of the Center for Educational Testing and Evaluation at the University of Kansas. "There's a never-ending war between those who try to maintain standards and those who are looking out for their own interests."

AP

In this photo taken Friday, Nov. 23, 2012, Neal Kingston, director of the Center for Educational Testing and Evaluation at the University of Kansas, talks about testing fraud in his Lawrence, Kan., office.

New Congress: Fewer moderates make deals harder

WASHINGTON (AP)—When the next Congress cranks up in January, there will be more women, many new faces and 11 fewer tea party-backed House Republicans from the class of 2010 who sought a second term.

Overriding those changes, though, is a thinning of pragmatic, centrist veterans in both parties. Among those leaving are some of the Senate's most pragmatic lawmakers, nearly half the House's centrist Blue Dog Democrats and several moderate House Republicans.

That could leave the parties more polarized even as President Barack Obama and congressional leaders talk up the cooperation needed to tackle complex, vexing problems such as curbing deficits, revamping tax laws and culling savings from Medicare and other costly, popular programs.

"This movement away from the center, at a time when issues have to be resolved from the middle, makes it much more difficult to find solutions to major problems," said William Hoagland, senior vice president of the Bipartisan Policy Center, a private group advocating compromise.

In the Senate, moderate Scott Brown, R-Mass., lost to Democrat Elizabeth Warren, who will be one of the most liberal members. Another GOP moderate, Richard Lugar of Indiana, fell in the primary election. Two others, Kay Bailey Hutchison of Texas and Olympia Snowe of Maine, are retiring.

Moderate Democratic senators such as Kent Conrad of North Dakota, Herb Kohl of Wisconsin, Ben Nelson of Nebraska, Jim Webb of Virginia are leaving, as is Democratic-leaning independent Joe Lieberman.

While about half the incoming 12 Senate freshmen of both parties are moderates, new arrivals include tea party Republican Ted Cruz of Texas, conservative Deb Fischer of Nebraska, and liberals such as Tammy Baldwin of Wisconsin and Hawaii's Mazie Hirono.

For Thanksgiving travelers, a smooth trip home

SEATTLE (AP)—Travelers heading home after the long Thanksgiving weekend had yet another reason to be thankful on Sunday: favorable weather and few airport delays reported on what is traditionally the busiest travel day of the year.

Although there was little elbow room on packed buses, trains and airplanes, travel appeared to be running smoothly as millions of people trekked home after feasting with family and friends.

Experts had predicted a slight rise in the number of people traveling this Thanksgiving weekend compared to last year. Some 43.6 million Americans were expected to journey 50 miles or more between Wednesday and Sunday, and more of them were likely to be driving while fewer were flying, according to AAA's yearly analysis.

Mauro Scappa and his wife, Chris, and their two children were among those who chose not to take to the skies. They braced themselves for delays as they waited at New York's Penn Station for a train back to Washington, near their home in Falls Church, Va. But their train was expected on time Sunday morning.

"We definitely wanted to avoid the airport on Thanksgiving weekend, for sure," Scappa said.

Renee Kerns, her husband Mike and their two children left about 30 minutes earlier than usual to catch a flight to home to California. They anticipated longer lines at the Washington-area Dulles International Airport, but sailed through security in about 10 minutes and were at their gate for their 8:30 a.m. flight to Oakland, Calif., more than an hour before their flight.

"It was fine," Renee Kerns said of getting through security. Added her husband: "Easy, but we're early."

Helped by dry weather and mostly clear skies, both O'Hare and Midway international airports in Chicago reported normal operations Sunday with no delays.

Leonard Reddick, 29, waited near downtown Chicago for a bus back to Flint, Mich. He traveled on Thanksgiving day to see his sister in the Chicago area, explaining that it's his trick for avoiding the huge crowds on the day before the holiday. He also liked the $84 roundtrip fare.

ACROSS THE NATION

Casey Anthony detectives overlooked Google search

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—The Florida sheriff's office that investigated the disappearance of Casey Anthony's 2-year-old daughter overlooked evidence that someone in their home did a Google search for "foolproof" suffocation methods on the day the girl was last seen alive. Orange County sheriff's Capt. Angelo Nieves said Sunday that the office's computer investigator missed the June 16, 2008, search. The agency's admission was first reported by Orlando television station WKMG. It's not known who performed the search. The station reported it was done on a browser primarily used by the 2-year-old's mother, Casey Anthony, who was acquitted of the girl's murder in 2011. Anthony's attorneys argued during trial that Casey Anthony helped her father, George Anthony, cover up the girl's drowning in the family pool.

Couple swept to sea in effort to save son, dog

EUREKA, Calif. (AP)—A couple died and their 16-year-old son went missing after being swept into sea in Northern California while trying to save their dog, authorities said Sunday. The family was at Big Lagoon, a beach north of Eureka, Saturday afternoon when the dog chased after a thrown stick and got pulled into the ocean by eight to ten foot waves, said Dana Jones, a state Parks and Recreation district superintendent. Jones said the boy went after the dog, prompting his father to go after them. She said the teenager was able to get out, but when he didn't see his father, he and his mother went into the water looking for him. "Both were dragged into the ocean," Jones said.

2 children among 4 dead in Calif. highway crash

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)—Two children were among four people killed when a car collided with a minivan on a rural Northern California highway, authorities said. The wreck came as a Toyota Prius crossed the center line on Highway 50 near Placerville on Saturday night and struck a Toyota Sienna minivan "broadside," said California Highway Patrol spokesman Officer John Frizzell. The crash also left five people injured. Three people in the Prius—a 39-year-old man driving the car, a woman and a child—were killed in the crash, Frizzell said. Another child in the car suffered moderate injuries. Three of the victims who died lived in the San Francisco Bay area. They were pronounced dead at the scene. Of the five people in the minivan, a 4-year-old girl was killed, Frizzell said. She died after being taken to a hospital. The four others - the 35-year-old female driver, a 51-year-old man and two 1-year-olds suffered minor to moderate injuries. By late Sunday afternoon no names had been released.

Asia

Fire kills 112 workers at Bangladesh garment-maker

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP)—Fire raced up the floors of a Bangladeshi garment factory with no emergency exits, killing at least 112 people, some of whom jumped from the eight-story building where they made clothes for major global retailers.

Investigators suspect that a short circuit caused the fire Saturday night outside the capital, Dhaka, said Maj. Mohammad Mahbub, fire department operations director.

The factory is owned by Tazreen Fashions Ltd., a subsidiary of the Tuba Group, which makes products for Wal-Mart, IKEA and other companies in the U.S. and Europe.

Wal-Mart says it previously stopped working with nearly 50 Bangladeshi factories because of fire danger. An assessment of Tazreen conducted for the retailer last year rated the company as a "high risk," but Wal-Mart said Monday it did not know whether it was still buying products made at the factory.

Firefighters recovered at least 100 bodies from the factory and 12 more people died at hospitals after jumping from the building to escape the fire, Mahbub told The Associated Press on Sunday.

"Had there been at least one emergency exit through outside the factory, the casualties would have been much lower," Mahbub said.

Local media reported that up to 124 people were killed.

Army soldiers and border guards were helping keep order as thousands of onlookers and anxious relatives of the factory workers gathered, Mahbub said.

Relatives of the workers frantically looked for their loved ones. Sabina Yasmine said she saw the body of her daughter-in-law, but had seen no trace of her son, who also worked there.

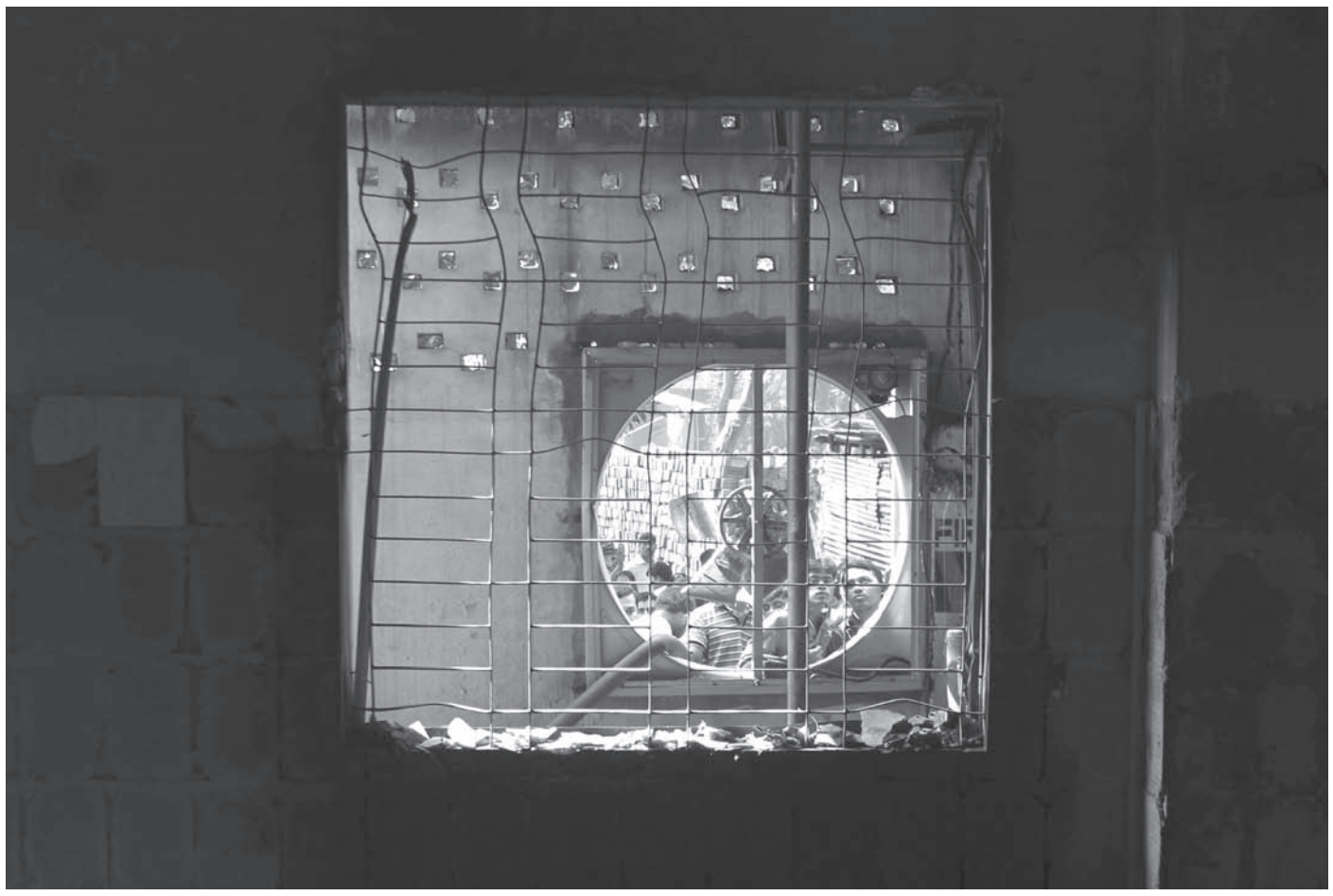
"Oh, Allah, where's my soul? Where's my son?" wailed Yasmine, who works at another factory in the area. "I want the factory owner to be hanged. For him, many have died, many have gone."

Neither Tazreen's owner nor Tuba Group officials could be reached for comment.

Tazreen was given a "high risk" safety rating after a May 16, 2011, audit conducted by an "ethical sourcing" assessor for Wal-Mart, according to a document posted on the Tuba Group's website. It did not specify what led to the rating.

Wal-Mart spokesman Kevin Gardner said online documents indicating an orange or "high risk" assessment after the May 2011 inspection and a yellow or "medium risk" report after an inspection in August 2011 appeared to pertain to the factory. The August 2011 letter said Wal-Mart would conduct another inspection within one year.

Gardner said it was not clear if that inspection had been conducted or whether the factory was still making products for Wal-Mart. If a factory is rated "orange" three times in two years, Wal-Mart won't place any orders for one year. The May 2011 report was the first orange rating for the factory.



AP

People look inside a burnt garment factory outside Dhaka, Bangladesh, Sunday, Nov. 25, 2012. At least 112 people were killed late Saturday night in a fire that raced through the multi-story garment factory just outside of Bangladesh's capital, an official said Sunday.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Vietnam won't stamp controversial China passports

HANOI, Vietnam (AP)—Vietnamese authorities are refusing to stamp Chinese passports featuring a map that includes disputed islands in the South China Sea as Chinese territory. They are instead issuing visas on a separate piece of paper. The head of the border guard command in the northern province of Quang Ninh bordering China said Monday that border guards have been instructed to issue stapled visas to Chinese people with such passports. There is concern among Vietnamese authorities that by stamping visas in such passports the government would be indirectly recognizing Beijing's claims to the disputed territory. The Philippines has also protested the map on the Chinese passports, which incorporates most of the South China Sea as its territory.

China mourns death of aircraft carrier engineer

BEIJING (AP)—China's government is mourning a key engineer behind its aircraft carrier program who died of a heart attack after witnessing the first landing of a plane on the ship. State broadcaster CCTV ran Luo Yuan's death as its first item on Monday's noon news broadcast, an unusual honor for a previously obscure scientist. The 51-year-old Luo oversaw development of the J-15 fighter-bomber planes designated for the ship - called the Liaoning after the province where it is based. The reverence paid to Luo after his death Sunday underscores the huge importance Beijing attaches to the program, seen as representing China's rise from poverty to political might over the past three decades. The ship was built in the former Soviet Union and it is still years away from being battle-worthy.

Veteran Filipino journalist Zenaida Silva dies

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Zenaida Silva, a veteran Filipino journalist who covered the 1986 "people power" revolt that ousted dictator Ferdinand Marcos and other turbulent political events in the Philippines, has died. Silva, 80, died on Saturday at a metropolitan Manila hospital after a six-month battle with cancer, according to Silva's daughter Celine S. Rosario, who was at her bedside when she passed away. Silva came from a family of journalists. She and her late husband, newspaper writer and TV journalist Manuel Silva, set up and ran the Philippine bureau of London-based Visnews for more than two decades until the international news outfit was acquired by Reuters in 1992 and eventually became Reuters Television. Her daughter Celine Rosario heads The Associated Press' video arm in Asia. Celine Rosario's husband, Francisco, is AP video's production manager for the region.

China's role in Southeast Asia questioned

BEIJING (AP)—China is finding the once friendly ground of Southeast Asia bumpy going, with anger against Chinese claims to disputed islands, once reliable ally Myanmar flirting with democracy and renewed American attention to the region.

The changing terrain for Beijing was on view this past week at a conclave of East Asian nations in Cambodia. Wen Jiabao, China's lame duck premier who usually exudes a mild, grandfatherly air, got into a sharp exchange over the contested South China Sea islands. The leaders of the Philippines, Singapore and Vietnam reacted furiously when host Cambodia suggested that all sides agreed not to bring outside parties into the dispute—a reference to the U.S.

Meanwhile, Barack Obama, buoyed by the first visit ever by a U.S. president to Myanmar, projected an image of a confident, friendly America, calling for a reduction in tensions and seemingly taking no sides.

Beijing is struggling to find its feet as its own power grows, but the U.S. refuses to cede influence in the region, emboldening other countries not to fall in with the Chinese line.

"The robust U.S. presence and relatively disciplined and quiet diplomacy looked strong relative to China's heavy-handed pressure," Ernest Bower, chair for Southeast Asian studies at the Council for Strategic and International Studies in Washington, D.C., wrote in a Thursday commentary.

It's a reversal over the treatment Beijing enjoyed much of the past decade as it wooed Southeast Asia with soaring trade and investment and the lure of the huge Chinese market. Looking to further those links, Wen held discussions on expanding a free trade agreement to increase China's imports from Southeast Asia.

China's economic "pull remains, but the smile has faded," said Aaron Friedberg, professor of politics and international affairs at Princeton University.

Getting Southeast Asian diplomacy right matters to Beijing. It's an area where China historically exercised great sway. The 10 countries of the Association of Southeast Asian nations, or ASEAN, are home to a market of 600 million people and straddle vital shipping lanes and seas rich in fish, oil, gas and other minerals.

Pakistani Shiite procession hit by bombing, 6 dead

DERA ISMAIL KHAN, Pakistan (AP)—A bombing claimed by the Taliban killed at least six people and wounded some 90 others at a Shiite religious procession in northwestern Pakistan on Sunday, police said, as the minority Muslim sect observes the annual Ashoura holiday.

Since Wednesday, at least 31 have been killed in bombings aimed at Pakistani Shiites and claimed by the Taliban, who espouse an extremist interpretation of Sunni Islam. Over 100 were wounded in the attacks during the run-up to the holiday, which commemorates the 7th century death of the Prophet Muhammad's grandson. The schism between Sunnis and Shiites dates back to that time.

Sunday's explosion went off as hundreds of Shiites were passing through the main intersection of the city of Dera Ismail Khan, police said, where food and water stalls were set up to serve the crowd. An initial investigation suggested a bomb was planted near a shop along the procession route.

"The bomb contained about eight kilograms of explosives and steel balls, and was detonated with a remote control device," city police chief Sohail Khalid said.

Several of injured are in serious condition, said Dr. Faridullah Mahsud, an official at the city's hospital, who added that three members of a paramilitary unit providing security for the procession were among the injured. Dr. Khalid Aziz, the top official at the hospital, put the death toll at six.

The Pakistani Taliban frequently attack Shiites, who they consider heretics. Ashoura ceremonies are a prime targets, since they draw large crowds that march in processions to mourn the martyred Imam Hussein. Early in the day, participants beat their chests in grief over Hussein's killing, while later some cut themselves to express their sorrow in blood.

Qais Abbas, a Shiite survivor, said that one of his relatives was in critical condition, but that he and others were moving the wounded to other hospitals that were better equipped.

"Here we are not getting proper care for them, there are not enough doctors or medicines," he said.

World

Syrian rebels capture air base near Damascus

BEIRUT (AP)—Syrian rebels captured a helicopter base just outside Damascus Sunday in what an activist called a "blow to the morale of the regime" near President Bashar Assad's seat of power, while the bombardment of a village near the capital killed at least eight children.

Activists said the children were killed when Syrian warplanes bombed the village of Deir al-Asafir just outside the Damascus. The village is close to suburbs of the capital that has been witnessing clashes, shelling and air raids between troops and rebels over the past months.

The Britain-based Syrian observatory for Human Rights said the bombardment of the village killed eight children. Another activist group, the Revolution Command Council said 10 children were killed when warplanes struck the village as they played outdoors.

An amateur video showed two girls lying dead in a street while the bodies of two bloodied dead boys were in the back seat of a car parked nearby. Several other wounded children were seen rushed for treatment.

Another video showed the bodies of two dead boys inside what appeared to be a makeshift hospital as others received treatment from injuries while lying on the floor.

The activist videos appeared genuine and corresponded to other AP reporting about the events depicted. Syria restricts the access of reporters.

Syria's conflict erupted in March 2011 with an uprising against Assad's regime, inspired by other Arab Spring revolts. It quickly morphed into a civil war that has since killed more than 40,000 people, according to activists. Hundreds of children have been killed since the crisis began, according to activists.

The air base takeover claim showed how rebels are advancing in the area of the capital, though they are badly outgunned, making inroads where Assad's power was once unchallenged. Rebels have also been able to fire mortar rounds into Damascus recently.

The director of the Observatory, Rami Abdul-Rahman, said rebels seized control of the Marj al-Sultan base on the outskirts of Damascus on Sunday morning. He said at least 15 rebels and eight soldiers were killed in the fighting that started a day earlier. The rebels later withdrew from the base.

Rebels appear to be trying to take over air bases and destroy aircraft in order to prevent the regime from using them in attacks against opposition forces around the country.

The rebels have no protection against the attack helicopters and fighter jets that have been blasting their positions.

Rebels have been attacking air bases in different parts of Syria, mostly in the northern regions of Idlib and Aleppo.

AP

In this image taken from video obtained from the Ugarit News, which has been authenticated based on its contents and other AP reporting, Syrian rebels capture a helicopter air base near the capital Damascus after fierce fighting in Syria, on Sunday, Nov. 25, 2012.

Gaza cease-fire raises hopes for reconstruction

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP)—Mohammed Falah Azzam has been through this before.

His mother's home was bombed in the 2008-09 Israeli military offensive in the Gaza Strip, which left hundreds dead and thousands of homes destroyed. In renewed fighting last week, an entire block of buildings housing his extended family was badly damaged in an airstrike that Israel said was aimed at a militant.

While none of his relatives was hurt, the 61-year-old retired schoolteacher once again has to worry about providing shelter for his family. Some relatives are sleeping in an empty shop, squeezed in with other family members. Others are spending their nights in rooms covered in plastic wrap to shield them from the winter rain because all the windows were blown out.

"This is going to cost thousands," Azzam said. "The longer I wait, the more damage will happen," he added, pointing to a heavily damaged building sitting atop tilting concrete columns.

Azzam finds himself caught again in a pile of paperwork to seek assistance, trying to secure hard-to-get construction materials. This time, he hopes the process will be smoother, thanks to both Israel's pledges to ease its longstanding border blockade and the newfound political clout of Gaza's Hamas rulers in the region.

Israel promised to ease the blockade as part of a cease-fire last week that ended eight days of intense fighting. But difficult negotiations lie ahead, and there is no firm timeline for lifting the restrictions.

Israel launched its offensive Nov. 14 in response to months of rocket fire out of Gaza. It carried out some 1,500 airstrikes during the fighting, while Palestinian militants lobbed a similar number of rockets into Israel.

The damage to buildings in Gaza appears less extensive than it was four years ago. The United Nations estimates 10,000 homes were destroyed or damaged, while Hamas has put the number at about 8,000, including 500 that were destroyed or heavily damaged.

Congo and M23 rebels negotiate in Uganda

KAMPALA, Uganda (AP)—Congolese officials are in talks Sunday with representatives of M23, the rebel group that last week took control of the eastern Congo city of Goma, according to Ugandan officials.

Ugandan Defence Minister Crispus Kiyonga said that he is mediating discussions to help both sides reach a settlement that would end a violent rebellion that has sucked in Uganda and Rwanda, which both face charges of backing the rebels.

M23 President Jean-Marie Runiga is leading the rebels in the talks, according to Rene Abandi, M23's head of external relations.

Abandi, who is now based in the Ugandan capital Kampala, said M23 representatives met with Congolese President Joseph Kabila in a tense, two-hour meeting that was also attended by Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni.

"He tried to accuse us and we also tried to accuse him," Abandi said of the meeting with Kabila on Saturday. "It was a meeting to have a common understanding of the principle of negotiation. (Kabila) said he's ready to negotiate directly with us."

But some Congolese officials in the capital Kinshasa have said there will be no talks with the rebels unless they quit Goma. A regional summit of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region in Kampala—attended by both Kabila and Museveni—on Saturday called on the rebels to leave Goma and urged Kabila to listen to the "legitimate grievances" of M23.

Despite the regional leaders' demands for the rebel forces to withdraw from Goma, M23 soldiers were visibly in control of the city Sunday. M23 also still held Sake, a contested town 25 kilometers (15 miles) west of Goma. The Congolese army attacked the town Saturday, but M23 retained control.

M23 President Runiga said that withdrawal from Goma was "under consideration" and, while M23 did not oppose the idea "in principle," no decision had been taken yet, according to M23 spokesman Lt. Col. Vianney Kazarama, speaking to the Associated Press. Runiga is still in Kampala and no official response to the demands from the regional summit is expected before his return to Congo, said Kazarama in Goma.

WORLD BRIEFS

Suicide blasts at Nigeria military base kill 11

KADUNA, Nigeria (AP)—Twin suicide car bombs exploded Sunday at a church inside one of Nigeria's top military bases, killing at least 11 people and wounding another 30 in an embarrassing attack showing the continued insecurity that haunts Africa's most populous nation. No one immediately claimed responsibility for the attacks, but suspicion immediately fell on the radical Islamist sect known as Boko Haram, whose suicide bombers target Sunday worship services in what has become a weekly macabre routine in Nigeria. This attack in Jaji on Sunday, however, happened inside a barracks home to the Armed Forces Command and Staff College, one of the country's most important military colleges. It also showed a new dangerous sophistication as the second explosion appeared timed to target responders rushing to aid the wounded 10 minutes after the first blast, officials said.

19 bodies found in northern Mexico border state

CIUDAD JUAREZ, Mexico (AP)—Nineteen bodies have been discovered in Mexico's northern border state of Chihuahua, officials reported Sunday, including 11 apparently long-dead men found in mass graves and eight others who were tortured and killed in recent days. The state prosecutor's office for missing people said 11 bodies were found in Ejido Jesus Carranza, near the U.S. border about 25 miles (40 kilometers) southeast of Ciudad Juarez. The area of sand dunes is a popular spot for picnickers from Juarez, which is just across the border from El Paso, Texas. Officials said the male victims were apparently buried two years ago at the height of battles between drug gangs seeking to control routes across the border. Federal statistics showed more than 3,000 people were killed that year in Ciudad Juarez, a city of 1.4 million, making it one of the most dangerous places on earth.

France: Sarkozy's party battles to save itself

PARIS (AP)—Parents struggle to explain it to their kids. Ambassadors struggle to explain it to their governments. The only thing that's clear is that French politics is a mess. Former President Nicolas Sarkozy's conservative party led one of the world's biggest economies for a decade and now, in the space of a week, has melted down into something that may never be put back together again. A mediation effort Sunday failed to reconcile the Union for a Popular Movement party or figure out who's in charge, seven days after a disputed election for a new party leader. The conflict looks headed now for the courts. The outcome could reshape France's political landscape and eventually weigh on Europe's direction too.

Focus

A checklist to see whether debt reduction is real

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama and leaders of the lame-duck Congress may be just weeks away from shaking hands on a deal to avert the dreaded "fiscal cliff." So it's natural to wonder: If they announce a bipartisan package promising to curb mushrooming federal deficits, will it be real?

Both sides have struck cooperative tones since Obama's reelection. Even so, he and House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, the GOP's pivotal bargainer, have spent most of the past two years in an acrid political climate in which both sides have fought stubbornly to protect their constituencies.

Obama and top lawmakers could produce an agreement that takes a serious bite out of the government's growing $16 trillion pile of debt and puts it on a true downward trajectory.

Or they might reach an accord heading off massive tax increases and spending cuts that begin to bite in January—that's the fiscal cliff—while appearing to be getting tough on deficits through painful savings deferred until years from now, when their successors might revoke or dilute them.

Historically, Congress and presidents have proven themselves capable of either. So before bargainers concoct a product, and assuming they can, here's a checklist of how to assess their work:

AP

This Nov. 16, 2012 file photo shows President Barack Obama, accompanied by House Speaker John Boehner of Ohio, speaking to reporters in the Roosevelt Room of the White House in Washington, as he hosted a meeting of the bipartisan, bicameral leadership of Congress to discuss the deficit and economy in Washington.

OVERALL DEFICIT CUTS

The House and Senate have four weeks until Christmas. Their leaders and the president want a deal before then. Bargainers are shooting for a framework setting future debt-reduction targets, with detailed tax and spending changes to be approved next year but possibly some initial savings enacted immediately.

Obama has suggested 10-year savings totaling around $4.4 trillion.

Passing a framework next month that sets deficit-cutting targets for each of the next 10 years would be seen as a sign of seriousness. But look for specifics. An agreement will have a greater chance of actually reducing deficits if it details how the savings would be divided between revenue increases and cuts in federal programs, averting future fights among lawmakers over that question.

Better yet would be including a fast-track process for passing next year's tax and spending bills if they meet the savings targets so they can whisk through Congress without the possibility of a Senate filibuster, in which 41 of the 100 senators could kill a measure they dislike.

Another sign of sincerity: An enforcement mechanism that imposes savings automatically if lawmakers gridlock over details. Legislators' efforts now to avert January's combination of automatic tax boosts and spending cuts underscores the effectiveness of forcing them to act.

Less impressive would be verbal pledges by the White House and congressional leaders to meet deficit-cutting goals without passing legislation inscribing the figures into law.

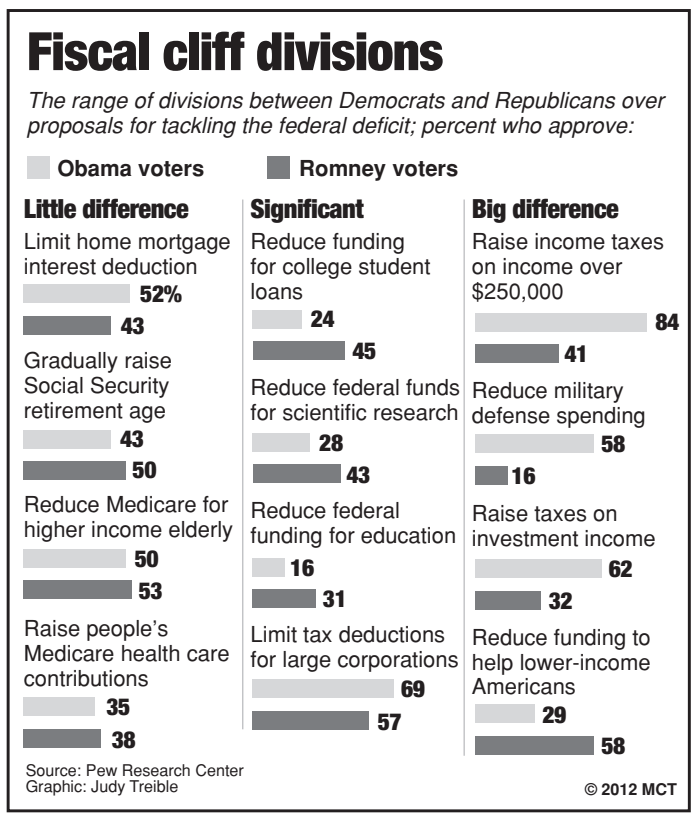
TAXES

A deal that specifies where revenue would come from would lay important groundwork for next year's follow-up bill enacting actual changes in tax laws.

The biggest clash has been over whether to raise income tax rates on earnings over $200,000 annually for individuals, $250,000 for families. Obama wants to let them rise next year to a top rate of 39.6 percent but has suggested he would compromise. Boehner and other Republicans oppose any increase above today's top marginal rate of 35 percent. Instead, they advocate lower rates and eliminating or reducing unspecified deductions and tax credits. Settling that would resolve the toughest impediment to a deal.

Raising money from higher rates, closing loopholes or a combination of the two would create real revenue for the government. The problem is many tax deductions and credits , such as for home mortgages and the value of employer-provided health insurance, are so popular that enacting them into law over objections from the public and lobbyists would be extremely difficult.

With the price tags of tax and spending laws typically measured over a decade, delaying the implementation date can distort the projected impact of a change on people and the government's debt.



Tax cuts written to expire in a certain year can put future lawmakers under political pressure to extend it. That is what Obama and Congress face today with the January expiration of tax cuts, including many enacted a decade ago under President George W. Bush.

Even more questionable are assumptions that overhauling tax laws will boost economic activity and thus produce large new revenues for the government. Many Republicans and ideologically conservative economists contend that's the case, but most economists say there is no sound way to estimate how much revenue can be generated from strengthening the economy by revamping the tax system. Many believe the amount is modest.

SPENDING

A serious agreement should specify how much savings would come from entitlements, meaning those big, costly benefit programs such as Social Security and Medicare. It also should say how much would come from discretionary spending, which covers federal agency budgets for everything from the military and national parks to food safety inspections and weather forecasts.

Why the need for specificity?

Because spending for entitlements occurs automatically, accounts for nearly two-thirds of federal spending and is the fastest growing part of the budget. Discretionary spending has been shackled by past budget deals and, according to the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office, is moving toward falling below 6 percent the size of the economy by 2022, the lowest level in at least 50 years.

A sincere effort to control expenditures would focus on entitlements, the true source of the government's spending problem. An agreement that envisions deep discretionary cuts risks a reliance on savings that future lawmakers could find unbearable and rescind.

Savings that come from weeding out waste, fraud and abuse, which sounds good but are difficult to find, or rely on one-time sales of federal assets should be treated with suspicion.

Deep cuts that take effect in the future, say after Obama leaves office in 2017, might be better than imposing them now and hurting an already weak economy by reducing spending.

But delayed cuts also open the door for Obama's successors and future Congresses to roll them back. In 1997, Congress voted for cuts in Medicare reimbursements to doctors; those cuts have grown so large that lawmakers now vote annually to restore the money.

Postponing the implementation of spending increases already scheduled to take effect, such as federal health insurance subsidies under Obama's health care overhaul, saves money upfront but makes no permanent changes that would ease future spending pressures.

Another debatable source of deficit reduction would be the hundreds of billions of dollars the Obama administration says the government is saving by winding down wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. While there is no question those expenditures are dropping, the government has run huge deficits while those wars were waged, so there's no money being left unspent as those wars end.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Logistics Manager

Graduate of 4-year degree course and with at least 6 years management experience in the logistics business with emphasis on airfreight, ocean freight forwarding, warehousing and fuel hauling operations. Knowledge of Federal Regulations in Transportation, Environmental and Occupational Safety Hazards is required. Must have obtained certifications/training in Hazmat, Occupational Safety and Hazardous Waste Operation, Emergency Response, IICL (Container and Chassis), Petroleum Standard Operating Procedure and Vehicle Safety Guidelines.

A pre-employment drug testing will be required. Salaries will be commensurate with qualification and experience. For applications to be considered, they should submit resume to CTSI Logistics, lower base not later than December 7, 2012, Friday.

FIESTA Resort & SPA SAIPAN A TanHoldings Company

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(3) Cook
Qualifications: High School diploma or equivalent. We are looking for an enthusiastic, creative and fully qualified cook who is passionate about food. Must have 3 years prior experience preferably in a hotel. Must have the ability to work in a flexible way that allows for changes in assignments and priorities depending upon identified needs of the unit. Ability to relate to individuals from diverse ethnic, cultural and socioeconomic backgrounds and to work with them in a fair, supportive and cooperative manner.

(1) Guest Relations Agent – China Market
Qualifications: High School diploma or equivalent. Must have 2 years prior experience in this field preferably in a hotel. Is responsive and genuine with guests and colleagues and confident with guest interactions. Able to read and write English and Mandarin Chinese. Can communicate alternative and positive solutions to problems and is adaptable and suitable to change. Excellent interpersonal and customer service skills are essential. Must be willing to work a flexible schedule including holidays, week-ends and nights.

Applications may be obtained and submitted at our security guard office located on the South Wing. All applications must be submitted by the closing date November 30, 2012.

We are an Equal Opportunity Employer.
Women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.

Overdrive

Mazda CX-5: a mixture of looks and muscle

By LARRY PRINTZ
THE VIRGINIAN-PILOT

MAZADA/MCT

Mazda's SkyActiv engine adds fuel economy to the 2013 CX-5, but at the expense of engine power: the all-wheel-drive model takes 9.5 seconds to reach 60 mph, according to Motor Trend.

The prospect of driving a compact crossover SUV won't make anyone's heart race. It's meant to schlep the kids, tote the groceries, drag yourself to work. While an automaker may endow these utilitarian devices with a dash of glamour, their mission is clear. They are post-modern station wagons.

Calling Marcia Brady: Your ride has arrived.

Yet that's not true when it comes to the 2013 Mazda CX-5, a compact crossover worthy of a company whose motto is "zoom-zoom." That said, you might be excused for bestowing it with one zoom, rather than two. But more on that in a minute. First some housekeeping.

The Mazda CX-5 replaces the boxy, long-in-the-tooth Mazda Tribute, which had Mazda paying tribute to then-corporate overlord Ford. The Tribute was little more than a Ford Escape with a different badge and grille.

The CX-5 sweeps aside that ancient model with a welcome new design that you will be seeing on many future Mazdas.

Up front, a large trapezoid grille that anchors its purposeful design, replacing Mazda's silly smiley grille motif. Artful side sculpting lends a flowing sense of motion to the boxy design. Thankfully, stylists resisted the temptation to make the windows too small; this is one vehicle with good visibility from inside the vehicle.

NUTS & BOLTS

2013 Mazda CX-5:

- **Base price, base model: $20,995**
- **Base price, test model: $28,295**
- **As tested, including destination charge: $30,415**

Good looks aside, the CX-5 boasts a cabin that's as roomy as the larger CX-7, despite being 5.6 inches shorter. Maybe this is why the CX-7 is no longer available.

Cargo space is generous at just under 35 cubic feet. The second row seats are split 40/20/40, handy for cargo flexibility. There's good room for four adults, or five if they're on a first-name basis. Seats are very firm and the front seats offer aggressive side bolstering for a compact SUV.

Interior ambience is about what you'd expect, with lots of hard plastics mitigated by some soft-touch panels on the instrument panel. You wouldn't call it opulent; sporty is more like it. At the top center of the instrument panel, there's an infotainment system controlled by a touch screen. Like other Mazdas, the system's design could be better, but it functions well enough. And pricier models have blind-spot monitoring, a welcome but unusual feature in this class.

There are three ascending trim levels, Sport, Touring and GT, with the difference mainly being equipment. All CX-5s receive the same engine: a 155-horsepower 2.0-liter engine matched to a six-speed automatic transmission. A six-speed manual also is available on Sport models—a rarity in this class. All models come with front-wheel-drive, but if you want all-wheel drive, you must opt for the automatic transmission.

The four-cylinder engine works its little heart out providing power. It's slow off the line, but has respectable power once speed builds. The transmission is responsive, making the most of the available power. Fuel economy is impressive. The CX-5 handles with a confidence and athleticism the Tribute could only dream about. This is a fun hauler to toss around town. The body maintains its composure in corners and over broken pavement. The steering is nicely weighted. The trade-off is a very firm ride that some may find a bit rough. But if you're used to driving a sports car or sports sedan, nothing will seem amiss. You may not even mind the engine and road noise.

And that's what separates the CX-5 from its many competitors; it's a track star in a class of beauty pageant winners. It has all of the right moves and a price that's easy to swallow.

Yes, it has zoom. It just doesn't have zoom-zoom.

Smartphone apps can help texting-while-driving addicts

By DEBORAH NETBURN
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Txting n drivng?

It's against the law in 39 states, but that hasn't stopped many of us from reaching for the phone while we're on the road. The chime of a new text message is enticing, and the urge to look at it is almost Pavlovian.

The good news is that if you can't keep yourself from reading and sending text messages while driving, a host of smartphone applications can help you break the dangerous habit.

One of the most appealing of these apps is DriveMode, a free download from AT&T, which limits the phone's functionality while you're driving.

When DriveMode is activated it will automatically silence the notification sounds of incoming texts, emails and even your phone calls. It'll also send an automatic reply to the sender or caller that you're driving and can't respond.

You still can receive and make calls for a list of up to five people if you absolutely need to hear from them. But no texts are allowed.

The app is available only for AT&T subscribers and only for Android and BlackBerry smartphones. A spokeswoman for the company said the company is working on an iPhone app, but no release date is scheduled.

Sprint, Verizon and T-Mobile make similar apps, although they are not all free.

If you think it is essential to get and respond to text messages while driving, consider using a service that will read your text messages to you and allow you to respond by talking. If you have the iPhone 5 or 4S, you can get voice assistant Siri to help you out. When you get a new text message, you can simply ask Siri to read it to you. After she's read it, you can tell her you'd like to respond and she'll take down your message and send it. Google Voice Actions provides a similar service for Android users.

If you have an earlier iPhone or a BlackBerry, you can download the Drive Safe app, which provides a similar service.

There are also apps to help parents of teen drivers, who are more likely to text and drive than any other age group.

UNDER THE HOOD

Oil recommendations can be specific

By BRAD BERGHOLDT
MCCLATCHY-TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

QUESTION: When I bought my 2 cars—a 2005 Dodge Caravan 3.8L V-6 and a 2007 Dodge Caliber Dual VVT 2L—I got a lifetime oil change, which Meineke now services. Both the oil filler cap and the manuals state to use 5W-20 oil. Recently, the manager told me they no longer carry 5W-20 oil and their substitute is 5W-30 oil, which he said will work the same. He said that mostly all new cars use 5W-30 oil. Without ruining my engine, will 5W-30 weight oil be OK to use in my two cars?—Nick Sablinsky

ANSWER: 5W-20 motor oil is recommended on many vehicles because it improves fuel economy by a slight amount. 5W, with the W standing for "winter," is the rating for the oil's thickness when cold, and 20 refers to the thickness at engine operating temperature. A 0W or 5W oil flows more quickly than a 10W oil at cold startup, providing a vital oil film between moving parts, reducing wear. Thicker oil is needed at operating temperature, due to increased stress on engine parts during a variety of speeds and loads; 30 is thicker than 20.

5W-20 motor oil has yet to match the universal availability of stalwart 5W-30 and 10W-30 oils, leading some folks to make substitutions. My personal belief is that 5W-30 oil could be used without any negative outcomes, but it's best to stick with what the car maker recommends. My basis for this opinion is that many car makers originally made the switch from 5W-30 to 5W-20 on what appears to be the same engines, to improve corporate average fuel economy, or CAFE, standards. It's odd that in the past carmakers offered a range of recommended oil viscosities, depending on weather conditions and driving habits. Now, in many cases the only oil listed is the one that promises to meet CAFE standards.

Could using 5W-30 void your engine warranty in the event of a failure? The Magnuson-Moss Warranty Act seems to provide sufficient consumer wiggle room, as long as the oil meets American Petroleum Institute standards and didn't specifically cause the failure.

I think the bigger issue here is why your oil-change place can't stock an oil that's recommended by many leading automobile manufacturers. There are now dozens of differing formulas required for automatic transmission, power steering fluid, antifreeze, etc., and a professional service facility needs to be responsive to specific vehicle needs. Would another outlet within this chain have the oil you desire? Could their upper brass be convinced to better meet customer needs? If nothing else, perhaps you can purchase your own oil and bring it to them, and have them credit back their oil that's unused, or simply go with the 5W-30 oil they carry.

■ ■ ■ ■

READER FEEDBACK: Joe Antoci suggested an addition to the emergency kit: an old, unsubscribed cell phone, with charger. They'll still reach 911, even when obsolete.

Another idea is a personal locator beacon, or PLB, for backwoods travelers. These devices are now down to around $250 and can communicate an emergency signal to orbiting U.S. and Russian Search and Rescue Satellites. PLBs are a scaled down version of the EPIRBS used in ocean going vessels and work anywhere in the world. For more information, take a look at: http:///www.landfall-navigation.com, and select PLBs. I own and recommend the McMurdo Fastfind 220. Another great choice is the ACR ResQLink 406MHz GPS Personal Locator Beacon. It's nice to know that a rescue helicopter is only a button-push away.

Brad Bergholdt is an automotive technology instructor at Evergreen Valley College in San Jose, Calif. Readers may send him email at under-the-hood@earthlink.net; he cannot make personal replies.

Life & Style

Hobbits, superheroes put magic in NZ film industry

By NICK PERRY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—A crate full of sushi arrives. Workers wearing wetsuit shirts or in bare feet bustle past with slim laptops. With days to go, a buzzing intensity fills the once-dilapidated warehouses where Peter Jackson's visual-effects studio is rushing to finish the opening film in "The Hobbit" trilogy.

The fevered pace at the Weta Digital studio near Wellington will last nearly until the actors walk the red carpet Nov. 28 for the world premiere. But after "The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey" hits theaters, there's more work to be done.

Weta Digital is the centerpiece of a filmmaking empire that Jackson and close collaborators have built in his New Zealand hometown, realizing his dream of bringing a slice of Hollywood to Wellington. It's a one-stop shop for making major movies—not only his own, but other blockbusters like "Avatar" and "The Avengers" and hoped-for blockbusters like next year's "Man of Steel."

Along the way, Jackson has become revered here, even receiving a knighthood. His humble demeanor and crumpled appearance appeal to distinctly New Zealand values, yet his modesty belies his influence. He's also attracted criticism along the way.

The special-effects workforce of 150 on "The Lord of the Rings" trilogy a decade ago now numbers 1,100. Only five of Weta Digital's workers are actual employees, however, while the rest are contractors. Many accept the situation because movie work often comes irregularly but pays well. Union leaders, though, say the workers lack labor protections existing in almost any other industry.

Like many colleagues, Weta Digital's director, Joe Letteri, came to New Zealand in 2001 to work on the "Rings" trilogy for two years. The work kept coming, so he bought a house in Wellington and stayed.

"People come here because they know it's their chance to do something really great and to get it up on the screen," he said in a recent interview. "And you want to do it in these next two weeks, because the two weeks after the movie's finished are useless."

Jackson, who declined to be interviewed for this story, launched Weta in 1993 with fellow filmmakers Jamie Selkirk and Richard Taylor. Named after an oversized New Zealand insect, the company later was split into its digital arm and Weta Workshop, which makes props and costumes.

Loving homages to the craft are present in Weta Digital's seven buildings around the green-hilled suburb of Miramar. There are old-time movie posters, prop skulls of dinosaurs and apes, and a wall of latex face impressions of actors from Chris O'Donnell to Tom Cruise.

Its huge data center, with the computing power of 30,000 laptops, resembles a milk-processing plant because only the dairy industry in New Zealand knew how to build cooling systems on such a grand scale.

Little of Weta's current work was visible. Visitors must sign confidentiality agreements, and the working areas of the facilities are off-limits. The company is secretive about any unannounced projects, beyond saying Weta will be working solidly for the next two years, when the two later "Hobbit" films are scheduled to be released.

The workforce has changed from majority American to about 60 percent New Zealanders. The only skill that's needed, Letteri says, is the ability to use a computer as a tool.

Beyond having creativity as a filmmaker, Jackson has proved a savvy businessman, Letteri says.

"The film business in general is volatile, and visual effects has to be sitting right on the crest of that wave," Letteri says. "We don't get asked to do something that somebody has seen before."

The government calculates that feature films contribute $560 million each year to New Zealand's economy. Like many countries, New Zealand offers incentives and rebates to film companies and will contribute about $100 million toward the $500 million production costs of "The Hobbit" trilogy. Almost every big budget film goes through Jackson's companies.

"New Zealand has a good reputation for delivering films on time and under budget, and Jackson has been superb at that," says John Yeabsley, a senior fellow at New Zealand's Institute of Economic Research. "Nobody has the same record or the magic ability to bring home the bacon as Sir Peter."

"You cannot overestimate the fact that Peter is a brand," says Graeme Mason, chief executive of the New Zealand Film Commission. "He's built this incredible reputational position, which has a snowball effect."

Back in 2010, however, a labor dispute erupted before filming began on "The Hobbit." Unions said they would boycott the movie if the actors didn't get to collectively negotiate. Jackson and others warned that New Zealand could lose the films to Europe. Warner Bros. executives flew to New Zealand and held a high-stakes meeting with Prime Minister John Key, whose government changed labor laws overnight to clarify that movie workers were exempt from being treated as regular employees.

Helen Kelly, president of the New Zealand Council of Trade Unions, says a compromise could easily have been reached. She says the law changes amounted to unnecessary union-busting and a "gross breach" of employment laws.

"I was very disappointed at Peter Jackson for lobbying for that," she says, "and I was furious at the government for doing it."

Weta Digital's general manager Tom Greally compared it to the construction industry, where multiple contractors and mobile workers do specific projects and then move on.

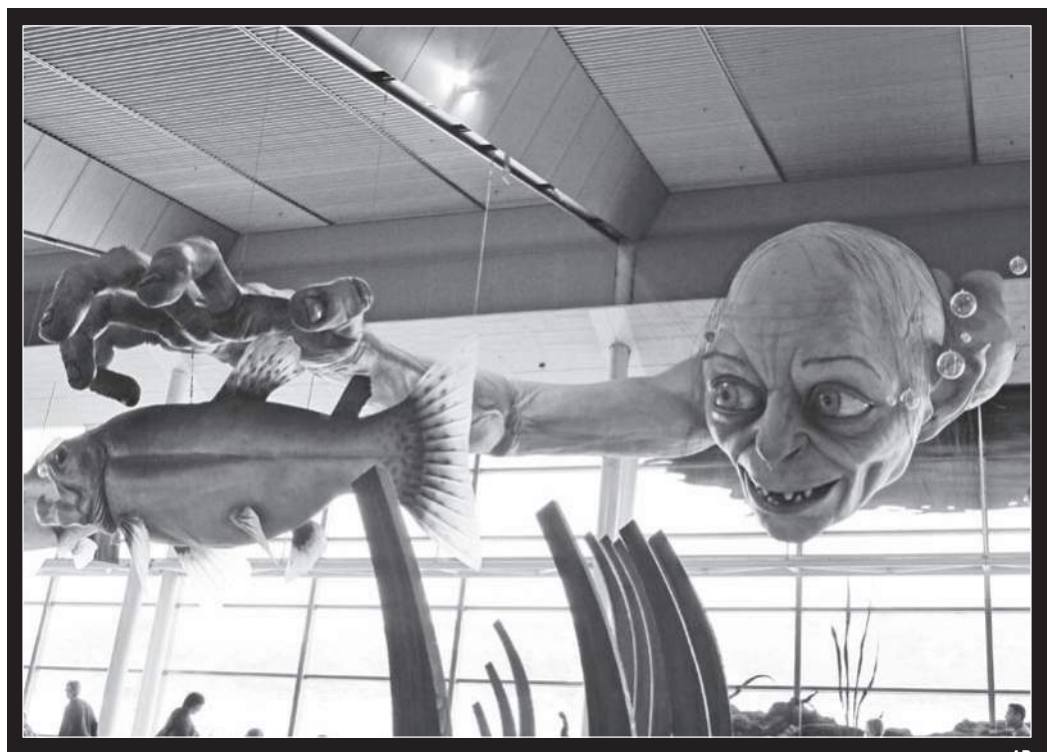
Animal rights activists said last week they plan to picket the premiere of "The Hobbit" after wranglers alleged that three horses and up to two dozen other animals died in unsafe conditions at a farm where animals were boarded for the movies. Jackson's spokesman Matt Dravitzki acknowledged two horses died preventable deaths at the farm but said the production company worked quickly to improve animal housing and safety. He rejected claims any animals were mistreated or abused.

Jackson's team pointed out that 55 percent of animal images in "The Hobbit" were computer generated at Weta. The People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals have asked Jackson in the future to create all his animals in the studio.

Controversies aside, the rise of Weta and the expat American community in and around Miramar is visible in everything from a Mexican restaurant to yoga classes. On Halloween, which in the past was not much celebrated in New Zealand, hundreds of costumed children roamed about collecting candy. Americans gave the tradition a boost here, but the locals have embraced it.

The National Business Review newspaper estimates Jackson's personal fortune to be about $400 million, which could rise considerably if "The Hobbit" franchise succeeds. Public records show Jackson has partial ownership stakes in 21 private companies, most connected with his film empire. He's spent some of his money on philanthropy, helping save a historic church and a performance theater.

For all his influence, Jackson maintains a hobbit-like existence himself, preferring a quiet home life outside of work. In the end, many say, he seems to be driven by what has interested him from the start: telling great stories on the big screen.

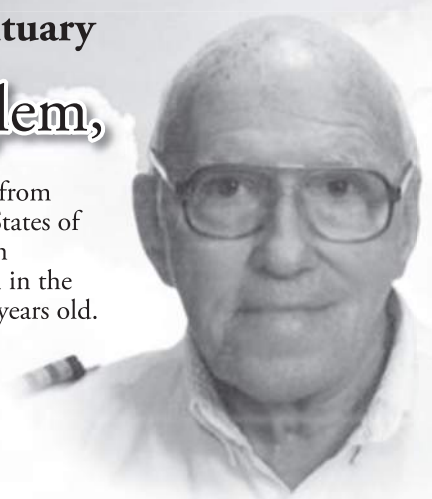


AP

In this photo taken Saturday, Nov. 24, 2012, a giant sculpture of Gollum, a character from "The Hobbit," is displayed in the Wellington Airport to celebrate the upcoming premiere of the first movie in the trilogy, in Wellington, New Zealand. The sculpture was created at Weta Workshop, part of Peter Jackson's movie empire in the Wellington suburb of Miramar.

Obituary

Glenn Alvin Seglem,



fondly known as "Grandpa", originally from Corinth, North Dakota of the United States of America, has passed on to eternal life on November 16, 2012 at home on Saipan in the Northern Mariana Islands. He was 83 years old.

His parents Carl and Anna Christine Seglem, siblings Calvin, Clifford, Marjorie Barlette, Charlotte Moelling, and Jensine Scott predeceased him.

His wife Ignacia "Grace" DeLeon Guerrero Seglem, sons Keith and Carl Seglem, stepdaughters Patricia Guerrero and Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero and Ramon C. Mafnas survive him. Grandchildren Erik and Sonja Seglem, Jonathan DLG. and Kristina B. Mafnas, Rafael DLG. Mafnas and Nanami DLG. Mafnas also survive him.

Additionally, his twin sister Gale Hansen Nelson and husband Burton, sisters-in-law Matilde V. DeLeon Guerrero and Lenora Seglem, and numerous nephews and nieces survive him.

Viewing and last respect may be paid at the Borja Funeral Home on Wednesday, November 28, 2012 from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. The burial will take place immediately thereafter at the Veteran's Cemetery in Marpi.

Our families deeply appreciate all the prayers and condolences expressed to us in our sorrows on the loss of our beloved Grandpa.

Thank you and Si Yu'us Ma'ase.

The DeLeon Guerreros and Seglems,

Mrs. Ignacia DLG. Seglem
Pat and Edith DeLeon Guerrero

Keith and Carl Seglem

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Rise of the Guardians 3D

Friday and Saturday	1:30	7:30
Sunday	1:30	7:30
Monday thru Thursday		7:30

Cast: Chris Pine, Hugh Jackman, Alec Baldwin
Genre: Children's/family • Rated PG

Synopsis
A group of mythical fairy-tale characters team up to save the world in this DreamWorks Animation production. Based on William Joyce's series of children's books, the pic features the voice acting talents of Chris Pine, Hugh Jackman, Alec Baldwin, Jude Law, and Isla Fisher. Peter Ramsey co-directs with Joyce.

Life of Pi 3D

Friday and Saturday	1:05	7:05
Sunday	1:05	7:05
Monday thru Thursday		7:05

Cast: Suraj Sharma, Irfan Khan, Tabu, Rafe Spall
Genre: Drama, Adventure • Rated PG

Red Dawn

Friday and Saturday	1:25	4:25	7:25	9:35
Sunday	1:25	4:25	7:25	
Monday thru Thursday		4:25	7:25	

Chris Hemsworth, Josh Peck, Josh Hutcherson
Genre: Action • Rated PG13

Life of Pi 2D

Friday and Saturday	4:05
Sunday	4:05
Monday thru Thursday	4:05

Cast: Suraj Sharma, Irfan Khan, Tabu, Rafe Spall
Genre: Drama, Adventure • Rated PG

Rise of the Guardians 2D

Friday and Saturday	4:30	9:45
Sunday	4:30	
Monday thru Thursday	4:30	

Cast: Chris Pine, Hugh Jackman, Alec Baldwin
Genre: Children's/family • Rated PG

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Twilight: Breaking Dawn Part 2

Friday and Saturday	1:00	4:00	7:00	9:30
Sunday	1:00	4:00	7:00	
Monday thru Thursday		4:00	7:00	

Cast: Kristen Stewart, Robert Pattinson, Taylor Lautner
Genre: Fantasy • Rated PG13

Flight

Friday and Saturday	1:10	4:10	7:10	9:55
Sunday	1:10	4:10	7:10	
Monday thru Thursday		4:10	7:10	

Cast: Denzel Washington, Don Cheadle, Kelly Reilly
Genre: Drama • Rated R

Skyfall

Friday and Saturday	1:15	4:15	7:15	10:00
Sunday	1:15	4:15	7:15	
Monday thru Thursday		4:15	7:15	

Cast: Daniel Craig, Judi Dench, Javier Bardem
Genre: Spy film, Action • Rated PG13

Wreck-It Ralph 2D

Friday and Saturday	1:20	4:20	7:20	9:40
Sunday	1:20	4:20	7:20	
Monday thru Thursday		4:20	7:20	

Cast: John C. Reilly, Sarah Silverman
Genre: Children's/family • Rated PG

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'Twilight,' Bond, 'Lincoln' lead record weekend

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Bella Swan, James Bond and Abe Lincoln have combined to lift Hollywood to record Thanksgiving holiday revenue at the box office.

Kristen Stewart's finale as Bella in "The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn—Part 2" was No. 1 again with $64 million during the five-day holiday stretch that began Wednesday, according to studio estimates Sunday.

Daniel Craig's Bond adventure "Skyfall" came in at No. 2 with $51 million, while Daniel Day-Lewis and Steven Spielberg's Civil War saga "Lincoln" finished third with $34.1 million.

According to box-office tracker Hollywood.com, the three films paced Hollywood to an all-time Thanksgiving week best of about $290 million from Wednesday to Sunday.

That tops the previous record of $273 million over Thanksgiving in 2009, when "The Twilight Saga: New Moon" led the weekend.

1. **"The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn—Part 2,"** $43.1 million ($97.4 million international).
2. **"Skyfall,"** $36 million ($41.3 million international).
3. **"Lincoln,"** $25 million.
4. **"Rise of the Guardians,"** $24 million ($10 million international).
5. **"Life of Pi,"** $22 million ($17.5 million international)
6. **"Wreck-It Ralph,"** $16.8 million ($2.1 million international).
7. **"Red Dawn,"** $14.6 million.
8. **"Flight,"** $8.6 million ($723,000 international).
9. **"Silver Linings Playbook,"** $4.6 million ($1.6 million international).
10. **"Argo,"** $3.9 million ($6 million international).

AP

In this Thursday, Nov. 15, 2012 file photo, from left, American actor Taylor Lautner, American actress Kristen Stewart and British actor Robert Pattinson pose during a photo call at the Spanish premiere of the film "The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn-Part 2" in Kinepolis Cinema in Madrid, Spain.

This Thanksgiving also was a huge 25 percent jump from a year ago, when domestic revenues were a weak $232 million as some big holiday releases fizzled.

With a strong December lineup ahead, Hollywood has resumed its record revenue pace for the year after a brief box-office lull in late summer and early fall.

Domestic revenues for 2012 are at $9.75 billion, putting Hollywood potentially on track for its first $11 billion year, which would beat the 2009 record of $10.6 billion, said Hollywood.com analyst Paul Dergarabedian.

"We're barreling toward a record-breaking box-office year," Dergarabedian said. "It's built on the back of just a lot of really strong movies that have come out over the past few weekends. It bodes very well for the rest of the holidays."

The "Twilight" finale, "Skyfall" and "Lincoln" finished in the same top-three rankings for the second-straight weekend as new releases were unable to dislodge the holdovers.

Leading the newcomers was Paramount and DreamWorks Animation's animated tale "Rise of the Guardians" at No. 4 with $24 million for the weekend and $32.6 million since opening Wednesday.

Close behind at No. 5 was director Ang Lee's shipwreck saga "Life of Pi" at No. 5 with $22 million over the weekend. The 20th Century Fox release has taken in $30.2 million domestically since its Wednesday debut and added $17.5 million in four Asian markets.

"Life of Pi" was adapted from Yann Martel's best-selling novel about an Indian youth adrift on a lifeboat with a Bengal tiger. Many fans considered the introspective novel impossible to film, but Lee has charmed audiences and critics with an inspiring survival story told through dazzling 3-D images.

"This is a marketplace that has something for everyone," said Chris Aronson, head of distribution for 20th Century Fox. "You have something deeper like 'Life of Pi,' yet you have a very successful sequel in 'Twilight' at the same time. Adult bio-drama, if you will, in 'Lincoln,' and you have Bond. That's the secret to a very successful and balanced marketplace."

Jude Law 'thrilled' to be part of 'Anna Karenina'

By MOIRA MACDONALD
THE SEATTLE TIMES

TORONTO—Alexei Alexandrovich Karenin is a government official; an older man with, according to his creator, Leo Tolstoy, large tired eyes and a deliberate, ungraceful gait. "Without haste and without rest" is his motto, in a life so meticulously scheduled and compartmentalized that it comes as a shock to him that his wife, Anna, has eyes for another man.

In Joe Wright's lavishly theatrical screen version of "Anna Karenina," he is played by a seemingly unlikely actor: Jude Law, the handsome Brit who burst on the scene with "Wilde" and "The Talented Mr. Ripley," and who not so long ago might have seemed the obvious choice for Anna's dashing young lover, Vronsky.

Law, at the Toronto International Film Festival earlier this fall, said that he welcomed the opportunity "to play a part that had many elements that I hadn't necessarily played before – and to contribute a tone musically that was different from everyone else (in the film): a stillness in a world of rhythm and ballet, and a quietness in a time of tears and music."

This "Anna Karenina," scripted by British playwright and screenwriter Tom Stoppard and set by Wright on a stylized Russian theater stage, seems a whirl of constant motion; Law's Karenin is the still point within it. As the other characters move in Russian society, Karenin's world is focused more on religion.

"A lot of his love for Anna is mixed up in his devotion—he believes that his marriage is under the eyes of God, it isn't going anywhere, it is blessed, it is holy. Therefore he has to understand it, and understand her, because it is unbreakable ... What you, I hope, see in our film is that man not falling as such, but feeling maybe for the first time, rather than thinking."

Taking on the role meant a physical transformation; not a dramatic one requiring prosthetics, but one that nonetheless rendered Law almost unrecognizable.

"We thought, for a man who lived in his head, we wanted to draw attention to his head, so we had this idea of taking my hairline back and concentrating on the pate," he said. Costume designer Jacqueline Durran created a monk-like wardrobe of stark tunics and priest-like collars, in sharp contrast to the elaborate fashions worn by the other characters. And Law created a physical vocabulary for Karenin: "He's very much about straight lines, tucked knees, rigid hands—crane-like, almost. The only expression you might see is the cracking of a knuckle. Otherwise, there's this rhythmic pulse to him, checking watches, keeping paper in line, everything just so."

Law, who turns 40 next month, said he's looking forward to returning to the stage: He'll play Shakespeare's "Henry V" on London's West End in 2013. And though other film projects are on the horizon, his pleasure in "Anna Karenina" is evident.

"I feel that it's the kind of film that comes along, unfortunately, not often enough—when a director is really grabbing the medium and trying a new language," he said. "There's a passion to this film and a sincerity and a vision. I'm just thrilled that I was invited to be a part of the adventure."

'Gangnam Style' most watched YouTube video ever

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korean rapper PSY's "Gangnam Style" has become YouTube's most viewed video of all time.

YouTube says in a posting on its Trends blog that "Gangnam Style" had been viewed 805 million times as of Saturday afternoon, surpassing Justin Bieber's "Baby," which has had 803 million views.

The blog says the "velocity of popularity for PSY's outlandish video is unprecedented."

PSY's video featuring his horse-riding dance was posted on YouTube in July, while "Baby" was uploaded in February 2010.

PSY's video has become a global sensation, with many people around the world mimicking his "Gangnam Style" dance. In their October meeting, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, a South Korean, joked that he had to relinquish his title as "the most famous Korean," and tried a few of PSY's dance moves.

In this Nov. 13, 2012 photo released by Guy Oseary, singer Madonna, left, performs onstage with South Korean rapper PSY during Madonna's MDNA concert at Madison Square Garden in New York.

AP

Rolling Stones mark 50th year with London show

LONDON (AP)—The Rolling Stones made a triumphant return to the London stage on Sunday night in the first of five concerts to mark the 50th anniversary of their debut as an American-oriented blues band.

They showed no signs of wear and tear—except on their aging, heavily lined faces—as frontman Mick Jagger swaggered and strutted through a stellar two-and-a-half hour show. He looked remarkably trim and fit and was in top vocal form.

The Stones passed the half-century mark in style at the sometimes emotional gig that saw former bassist Bill Wyman and guitar master Mick Taylor join their old mates in front of a packed crowd at London's 02 Arena.

It was the first of five mega-shows to mark the passage of 50 years since the band first appeared in a small London pub determined to pay homage to the masters of American blues.

Jagger, in skin-tight black pants, a black shirt and a sparkly tie, took time out from singing to thank the crowd for its loyalty.

"It's amazing that we're still doing this, and it's amazing that you're still buying our records and coming to our shows," he said. "Thank you, thank you, thank you."

Lead guitarist Keith Richards, whose survival has surprised many who thought he would succumb to drugs and drink, was blunter: "We made it," he said. "I'm happy to see you. I'm happy to see anybody."

But the band's fiery music was no joke, fuelled by an incandescent guest appearance by Taylor, who played lead guitar on a stunning extended version of the ominous "Midnight Rambler," and Mary J. Blige, who shook the house in a duet with Jagger on "Gimme Shelter."

The 50th anniversary show, which will be followed by one more in London, then three in the greater New York area, lacked some of the band's customary bravado—the "world's greatest rock 'n' roll band" intro was shelved—and there were some rare nostalgic touches.

Even the famously taciturn Wyman briefly cracked a smile when trading quips with Richards and Ronnie Wood.

The concert started with a brief video tribute from luminaries like Elton John, Iggy Pop and Johnny Depp, who praised the Stones for their audacity and staying power. The Stones' show contained an extended video homage to the American trailblazers who shaped their music: Muddy Waters, John Lee Hooker, Otis Redding, Bob Dylan, Johnny Cash and others. The montage included rare footage of the young Elvis Presley.

AP

Mick Jagger, center, Keith Richards, Ronnie Wood, left, and Charlie Watts, right, of The Rolling Stones perform at the O2 arena in east London, Sunday, Nov. 25, 2012.

The Stones began their professional career imitating the Americans whose music they cherished, but they quickly developed their own style, spawning hundreds—make that thousands—of imitators who have tried in vain to match their swagger and style.

The concert began with some early Stones' numbers that are rarely heard in concert, including the band's cover of the Lennon-McCartney rocker "I Wanna Be Your Man" and the Stones original "It's All Over Now."

They didn't shy away from their darker numbers, including "Paint It Black" and "Sympathy for the Devil"—Jagger started that one wearing a black, purple-lined faux fur cape that conjured up his late '60s satanic image.

He even cracked a joke about one of the band's low points, telling the audience it was in for a treat: "We're going to play the entire "Satanic Majesty's Request" album now," he said, referring to one of the band's least-loved efforts, a psychedelic travesty that has been largely, mercifully, forgotten.

He didn't make good on his threat.

He also made fun of the sky-high ticket prices, which had exposed the band to some criticism in the London press.

"How are you doing up in the cheap seats," he said, motioning to fans in the upper rows of the cavernous 02 Arena. "Except they're not cheap seats, that's the problem."

But Jagger seemed more mellow than usual, chatting a bit about the good old days and asking if there was anyone in the crowd who had seen them in 1962, when they first took to the stage.

He said 2012 had been a terrific year for Britain and that the Stones nearly missed the boat, playing no role in the celebration of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, the London Olympics, or the new James Bond film.

"We just got in under the wire," he said. "We feel pretty good."

Little boy's exposing himself may signal he's being abused

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DearAbby

DEAR ABBY: I am writing to you in response to "Not on My Watch" (Sept. 19), about the little boy who repeatedly exposes himself to other children. While correcting this behavior to protect the other children is something the parents and other concerned adults in this child's life should be doing, there may be more going on here that needs to be addressed. Children who have been victims of sexual abuse can exhibit overtly sexualized behavior that goes beyond typical curiosity or age-appropriate sexual development.

There are several issues happening with this boy that bother me. The repeated exposure of his private parts to others is the first. While this behavior is not unusual in young children and can be a normal part of sexual curiosity, the compulsive continuation and frequency of his behavior raises red flags. He also mentioned keeping a "secret." This is a common tool used by people who abuse children. The manner in which he interacted with "Not on My Watch's" daughter sounds a lot like an interaction between an adult abuser and a child —something he may have been mimicking.

Young children who are sexually abused may not have the developmental or verbal capabilities to disclose what is happening. Often it is through behavioral or emotional signs that we discover the abuse.

While it is important to protect the children this boy interacts with, the more appropriate response to this situation would be to calmly explain to him why his behavior is inappropriate, along with a discussion to find out if he has witnessed this behavior in others or if he has "secrets" with anyone.

If he discloses something during the discussion, it should be immediately reported to the local child protective services and/or police. And if his behavior continues, it would be best to seek professional intervention.

JUDY AT CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER

DEAR JUDY: Your letter echoes the sentiments of the majority of responses I received about 5-year-old "Billy." Thank you for articulating it so clearly. Read on:

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My wife witnessed a similar scenario last year during a play date. A 4-year-old girl was observed putting her hands down the pants of boys her age. Initially we thought it was normal curiosity; then we suspected she might be a victim. The authorities investigated, and it turned out that her male teenage cousin had been abusing her.

CONCERNED DAD

DEAR ABBY: I am a psychiatric nurse who works with children who have suffered various types of abuse. This kind of repeated behavior is a big indication that Billy is being sexually abused himself.

The fact that he wants to keep it "secret" indicates that it is a learned behavior. That his parents are "burying their heads in the sand" may indicate that they know about the abuse or are the abusers themselves.

That boy should be taken to see a doctor for a full evaluation, and a call to social services is in order. The call can be anonymous. It is better to be safe than sorry in this case.

NURSE WHO CARES IN OHIO

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

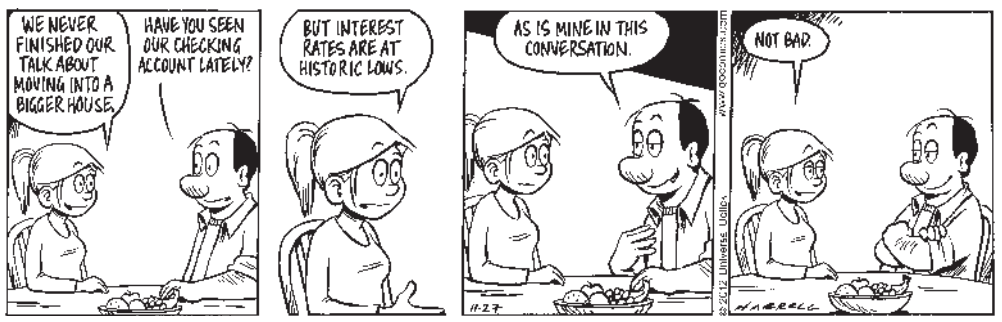
THIS CONNECT-THE-DOTS BOOK REALLY MAKES ME MAD! LOOK AT THIS.
IT'S A DUCK.
I KNOW! WHO WANTS TO DRAW A DUCK?! I SURE DIDN'T! THEY MADE ME!
I'VE BEEN MANIPULATED! MY NATURAL ARTISTIC TALENT HAS BEEN USED AGAINST MY WILL TO CREATE SOME CORPORATE ENTITY'S CRUDE IDEA OF WATERFOWL! IT'S OUTRAGEOUS!
ANOTHER BLOW TO CREATIVE INTEGRITY.
FROM NOW ON, I'LL CONNECT THE DOTS MY OWN WAY.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

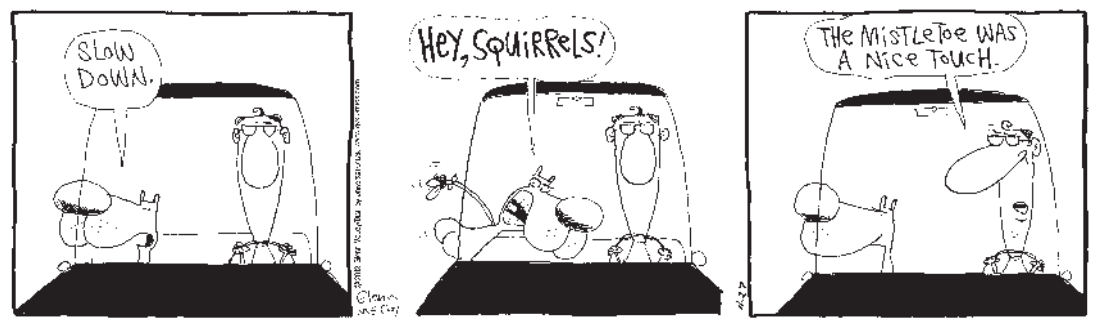
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


WE NEVER FINISHED OUR TALK ABOUT MOVING INTO A BIGGER HOUSE.
HAVE YOU SEEN OUR CHECKING ACCOUNT LATELY?
BUT INTEREST RATES ARE AT HISTORIC LOWS.
AS IS MINE IN THIS CONVERSATION.
NOT BAD.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Moby-Dick's pursuer
5 Strange
8 Slight col-oration
12 Disturb
13 Hawaiian neckwear
14 Reed instru-ment
15 Tunes
17 Diamond source
18 Court
19 Spring, for one
21 Unspo-ken "I dunno"
24 Leave suddenly
25 Hen-house
26 Became less harsh
30 Every-thing
31 Bisect
32 Commo-tion
33 Creator of 1-Across
35 "Phooey!"
36 Shoppe describer
37 Greedy one's cry
38 Wheedle
41 "A mouse!"
42 Enthusi-astic
43 Rapid decline
48 Eques-trian game
49 Type squares
50 Concept
51 Aware of
52 Regret
53 Retain

DOWN
1 Upper limb
2 Weeding tool
3 Have a bug
4 Explode
5 Hodge-podge
6 Cee follower
7 Turn to liquid
8 Beef-steak or plum
9 Sacred bird of Egypt
10 Taboo, to a child
11 Adoles-cent
16 Pooch
20 Model Mac-pherson
21 Con game
22 Golf target
23 Hot dog holder
24 Southern lass
26 Seasick-ness
27 Friendly
28 Dutch cheese
29 Be too fond
31 Jack and Jill's terrain
34 Type of doll
35 Long-snouted antelope
37 Obtain
38 Crime boss
39 Shake-speare's river
40 Leave at the altar
41 Different
44 Ostrich's cousin
45 Rhyming praise
46 Teensy
47 Siesta

Solution time: 21 mins.

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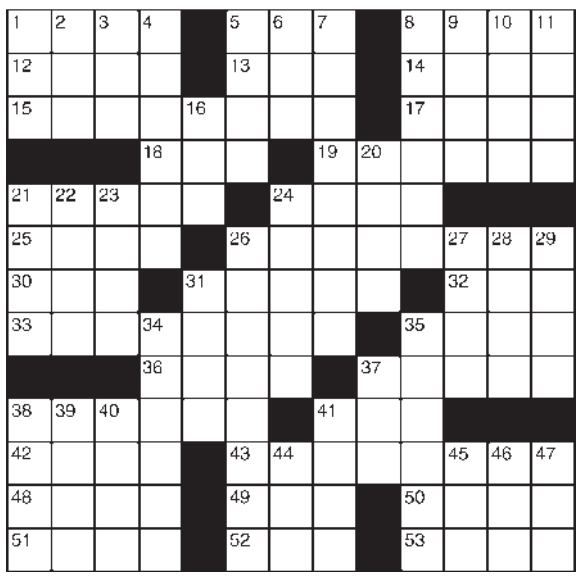
Yesterday's answer 11-27



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Alison Pill, 27; Jaleel White, 36; Fisher Stevens, 49; Kathryn Bigelow, 61.

Happy Birthday: Put greater emphasis on work and getting along with the people you need on your team to advance. Do whatever you can to improve your domestic life and your living arrangements. Comfort will play a big part in your happiness both personally and within your closest relationships. Honesty will be the only way to avoid souring your reputation. Your numbers are 7, 12, 16, 23, 32, 35, 43.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Check your finances. An interesting observation based on your past records will help you curb a habit. Shake things up, cut corners where you can and you will get ahead. Dump deadweight and you will find your way to victory. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Strive for perfection and you'll make a lasting impression. Negotiating a better position or considering a partnership looks promising. Putting time aside for a little romance in the evening hours will enhance your life. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): You'll have choices to make. Head in whatever direction promises to expand your knowledge, brings you the most experience and positions you for future endeavors. Honesty regarding what you have to offer will increase your chance to excel. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Mingle, network and share your stories and experiences and you will get something in return. Giving a unique spin to a talent or skill you have can help you find a new source of income. A partnership will undergo change. Negotiate and adjust your position. ✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Personal problems will escalate, causing a setback regarding your professional productivity. Don't mix business with pleasure or you'll put a dent in your reputation. Creative accounting will be necessary. Honesty will help you avoid trouble. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Talks and negotiations will work out well and help send you in a positive direction. Your ability to do things according to plan in a unique and detailed manner will bring you recognition. A partnership will help you excel beyond your expectations. ✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): You will overreact if someone confronts you. Put whatever situation you face in perspective. Rethink your strategy, and focus more on how you can up your income or cut your overhead. Negotiate a deal that will help you handle your money better. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Don't make comparisons when what you should be doing is focusing on your skills, knowledge and getting ahead. You have more options than you realize. Recognize where you must put your time and effort to advance. Finish what you start. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Your efforts must be directed toward maintaining what you've got. Rework an old idea or incorporate something you've learned into a plan that needs to be revamped. Stability can be yours but only if you are willing to make changes. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Jump at any chance you get to mingle with colleagues or to discuss plans you feel will streamline what you've been asked to achieve. You will impress higher-ups with your leadership quality and your dedication and relentless drive. ✪✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Proceed with caution. Learning something new will not be easy, but it will be necessary. You can bring in more money if you pick up skills that will enable you to offer a service that is in demand in your community. ✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Learn from experience. Discuss business deals and negotiate your position. Don't settle for less when you are capable of moving forward on your own. Love is on the rise, and a personal partnership will be beneficial. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are an instigator and an entrepreneur. You are charismatic, mysterious and unique.

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

					5	8		3
		1	9	7				
	5				6			7
	3		6			9		1
	6						5	
7		2			9		8	
5			8				3	
				2	4	7		
4		9	7					

Difficulty Level ★★ 11/27

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

4	7	5	3	9	6	2	1	8
2	9	3	5	8	1	7	4	6
8	6	1	7	2	4	3	9	5
3	4	7	8	5	9	6	2	1
1	2	9	6	4	3	5	8	7
6	5	8	2	1	7	4	3	9
5	3	4	1	7	8	9	6	2
7	8	6	9	3	2	1	5	4
9	1	2	4	6	5	8	7	3

Difficulty Level ★ 11/26

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

SLURPEES — Solution: 11 letters

K	Y	S	E	W	E	D	N	I	A	T	N	U	O	M
S	R	E	P	P	E	P	R	D	M	I	S	T	I	I
I	R	S	T	R	A	W	B	E	R	R	Y	S	V	X
R	E	L	P	R	U	P	E	Y	T	N	P	R	H	I
B	B	U	P	U	N	C	H	I	A	E	O	U	S	N
U	P	R	E	L	C	S	U	R	P	R	L	B	U	G
B	S	P	E	V	U	R	B	E	E	O	L	R	R	A
B	A	E	S	L	F	E	O	U	A	O	E	A	C	D
L	R	E	S	T	Z	S	L	T	A	T	Y	T	E	O
E	Z	I	S	Y	R	B	N	D	Ⓒ	B	O	S	G	S
G	G	A	T	O	R	A	D	E	Ⓞ	E	L	R	N	M
U	R	R	V	S	F	N	W	N	Ⓛ	E	L	O	A	A
M	I	A	R	E	T	A	W	S	Ⓓ	R	E	L	R	E
D	L	S	P	I	S	N	O	M	E	L	M	O	O	R
F	R	O	Z	E	N	A	A	L	O	C	A	C	O	C

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Banana, Blue, Brisk, Bubble Gum, Coca-Cola, Cold, Collector, Colors, Cream Soda, Crush, Cups, Dirty Zebra, Dr Pepper, Fanta, Flavors, Frozen, Fruit, Gatorade, Grape, Lemon, Load, Mello Yello, Mist, Mixing, Mountain Dew, Orange, Pepsi, Punch, Purple, Raspberry, Root Beer, Sips, Size, Slurpee, Slushy, Starburst, Stir, Strawberry, Straws, Water

Yesterday's Answer: Creator

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Saipan Tribune

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Colin M. Thompson, Esq.
J.E. Tenorio Building
PMB 917 Box 10001
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone: (670) 233-0777
Facsimile: (670) 233-0776

Attorney for Administrator

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN RE THE ESTATE OF:	**CIVIL ACTION NO. 12- ____**
DONALD CEPEDA PANGELINAN.	**NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITION RULES 11 & 16 COM.R.PRO.**
Decedent,	**Date: December 4, 2012 Time: 1:30 pm Judge: Hon. David Wiseman**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Petitioner, Camille Luisa Pangelinan, filed a Petition in the Superior Court praying that she appointed Administratrix of the Estate of Donald Cepeda Panagelinan, deceased to determine the heirs of the decedent and distribute any assets of decedent. The attorney of record is Colin M. Thompson, at PMB 917, Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950.

The hearing on the Petition is set for December 4, 2012, in courtroom of the Superior Court, Susupe, Saipan, at 1:30 pm. All interested person should appear at the hearing.

All person having claims against the estate, or against the decedent should file their claims with the Clerk of Court for the Superior Court within sixty (60) days after the first publication of this notice.

Dated this 26th day of October, 2012.

/s/ Patrick V. Diaz
Deputy Clerk of Court

Thompson Law Office, LLC
Colin M. Thompson, Esq.
J.E. Tenorio Building
PMB 917 Box 10001
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone: (670) 233-0777
Facsimile: (670) 233-0776

Attorney for Administrator

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN RE THE ESTATE OF:	**CIVIL ACTION NO. 12- ____**
VICENTE IGISOMAR TEBIT. Decedent,	**NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITION RULES 11 & 16 COM.R.PRO.**
	Date: December 4, 2012 Time: 1:30 pm Judge: Hon. David Wiseman

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Petitioner, Frank Gibson, filed a Petition in the Superior Court praying that he appointed Administrator of the Estate of Vicente Igisomar Tebit, deceased to determine the heirs of the decedent and distribute any assets of decedent. The attorney of record is Colin M. Thompson, at PMB 917, Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950.

The hearing on the Petition is set for December 4, 2012, in courtroom of the Superior Court, Susupe, Saipan, at 1:30 pm. All interested person should appear at the hearing.

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Dated this 26th day of October, 2012.

/s/Patrick V. Diaz
Deputy Clerk of Court

JAE HOON CORPROATON D.B.A. PACIFIC GROCERS has openings for:

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One (1) Bookkeeper
Minimum qualifications: Three years experience as a bookkeeper or accountant for wholesale company with a minimum of 2,500 sales items and working knowledge of Quickbooks and SellWise software.
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Minimum qualifications: Two years experience as a sales representative for wholesale company with a minimum of 2,500 sales items.
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One (1) Salesperson
Minimum qualifications: Two years experience as a salesperson for wholesale company with a minimum of 2,500 sales items.
Duties: Sells company's products to retail stores. Meets with customers in order to explain and promote the quality and competitive costing of the company's products. Quotes prices and credit terms for purchase of company's products. Prepares sales slips or sales contracts and may collect payment from customers. Ensures that customers' orders are properly filled. Arranges and/or provides delivery of products to customers.

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Minimum qualifications: One year experience as a stocker or warehouseman for wholesale company with a minimum of 2,500 sales items.
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Falcons overcome mistakes to beat Buccaneers

TAMPA, Fla. (AP)—No one has led more late game-winning drives during the past five seasons than Matt Ryan, and the Atlanta Falcons quarterback did it again with his fifth one this season.

Matty Ice threw for 353 yards and overcame two critical turnovers to stop Tampa Bay's four-game winning streak with a 24-23 victory on Sunday.

The Falcons (10-1) are tied with the Houston Texans for the NFL's best record, and Ryan had plenty of help in withstanding a challenge from the up-and-coming Buccaneers (6-5).

"They are playing with a lot of confidence," said Ryan, who has won seven of his past eight starts against the Bucs. "It's always been a tough place for us to come play. They play with great effort, and I think they have a good football team."

Ryan teamed with Julio Jones on an 80-yard TD midway through the third quarter, but the Falcons found themselves trailing 23-17 after the Bucs marched for a touchdown, then used a sack-fumble to set up a field goal that left Atlanta needing another strong finish from their quarterback.

Ryan obliged by a leading a six-play, 64-yard march that Michael Turner finished with a 3-yard TD run that put the NFC South leaders ahead for good with 7:55 remaining.

Connor Barth missed a 56-yard goal for Tampa Bay (6-5) in the closing minutes, and the winning streak that's helped the Bucs climb back into playoff contention following a slow start ended when Josh Freeman's desperation pass fell incomplete in the end zone on the final play.

"The last drive, that's something we've done before this season," Falcons tight end Tony Gonzalez said. "I really think that's a positive for us to be able to come up with plays like that when we have to like that. ... I'm really happy with the way we responded."

It's getting to be a way of life. Ryan has also led late marches to beat Carolina, Washington, Oakland and Arizona this season and has put together 21 game-winning drives in the fourth quarter or overtime since entering the league in 2008—four of them against the division rival Bucs.

The Falcons won't have long to celebrate this one. The host the New Orleans Saints Thursday night in a rematch of the only game they've lost.

"Ten-and-1 is great, but I'll tell you what I've said since the beginning of the season: We're just jockeying for position," Gonzalez said. "We just want to put ourselves in the best position, playing the best football. Right around this time is when you want to start gelling as a team and take it on into the playoffs because that's the most important thing."

The win stopped the Bucs, who've won five or seven following a 1-3 start, from tightening the NFC South standings. Turner also scored a fourth-quarter TD that helped the Falcons overcome six turnovers to beat Arizona 23-19 last week.

Doug Martin scored on a pair of 1-yard run for the Bucs, however the rookie who began the day leading the NFL in total yards from scrimmage was limited to 50 yards rushing on 21 carries.

Barth kicked field goals of 22, 42, and 48 yards, the latter giving the Bucs their six-point lead after cornerback E.J. Biggers sacked Ryan to force a fumble. Ryan threw a second-quarter interception - his sixth pick in two weeks—that led Barth's field goal that made it 10-10 at the half.

Ryan completed 26 of 32 passes, including four straight on the drive that Turner finished with his TD run. Jacquizz Rodgers had a 5-yard TD run in the first quarter, and Jones finished with six receptions for 147 yards despite playing on a sore right ankle that limited him in practice.

Ryan started the game with 10 straight completions before Ronde Barber's interception and 28-yard return to the Atlanta 31 led to Barth's first field goal.

The Falcons drove to the Tampa Bay 4 in the closing seconds of the half, but wasted an opportunity to regain the lead when Matt Bryant hooked a 22-yard field-goal attempt wide left as time expired. The Atlanta kicker missed a 48-yarder with 8 seconds left, giving the Bucs one more chance to pull out what would have been their first signature victory under first-year coach Greg Schiano.

AP

Atlanta Falcons quarterback Matt Ryan (2) throws an 80-yard touchdown pass to wide receiver Julio Jones during the third quarter of an NFL football game against the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, Sunday, Nov. 25, 2012, in Tampa, Fla.

49ers 31, Saints 21

In New Orleans, Ahmad Brooks and Donte Whitner returned interceptions for touchdowns, the 49ers sacked Drew Brees five times, and San Francisco ended the Saints' three-game winning streak.

Colin Kaepernick was solid in his second-career start while Alex Smith, deemed healthy enough to suit up, watched from the sideline. Kaepernick passed for 231 yards, including a short touchdown to Frank Gore. He also ran for a 7-yard score. He threw his first career interception, but it was inconsequential.

Brees finished with 267 yards and three TDs. After rushing for 140 yards or more in each of its previous three games, New Orleans (5-6) managed only 59 yards against San Francisco (8-2-1).

Broncos 17, Chiefs 9

In Kansas City, Mo., Peyton Manning threw for 285 yards and two touchdowns, and Denver rallied for its sixth straight win.

Manning hit tight end Jacob Tamme late in the first half and wide receiver Demaryius Thomas in the third quarter, and that was more than enough to overcome three field goals by the Chiefs' Ryan Succop as Kansas City lost its eighth straight game.

Knowshon Moreno added 85 yards rushing for the AFC West-leading Broncos (8-3). Moreno got the start in place of Willis McGahee, who went on injured reserve this week with a knee injury.

Jamaal Charles ran for 107 yards for the Chiefs (1-10), who failed again to punch the ball into the end zone.

Dolphins 24, Seahawks 21

In Miami, Dan Carpenter kicked a 43-yard field goal on the final, and Miami scored 17 points in the last 8:08.

Rookie Ryan Tannehill drove Miami 65 yards in the final 92 seconds to set up the winning kick. He finished 18 for 26 for 253 yards and a score.

Leon Washington returned a kickoff for a touchdown for the eighth time to tie the NFL career record and put Seattle ahead with eight minutes left. Miami answered with an 80-yard drive capped by Tannehill's 29-yard scoring pass to Charles Clay, making it 21-all.

Miami (5-6) broke a three-game losing streak. The Seahawks (6-5), who are unbeaten at home this year, lost for the fifth time in six road games.

Ravens 16, Chargers 13, OT

In San Diego, Justin Tucker kicked a 38-yard field with 1:07 left in overtime to complete a stunning comeback for the Ravens.

San Diego led 13-3 on Nick Novak's 30-yard field goal with 7:51 to go in regulation and seemed headed for its first win against a team with a winning record this season.

But the Ravens converted on fourth-and-29 from their 37 when Ray Rice caught a short pass from Joe Flacco and weaved through the defense to the San Diego 33 with 1:37 to play. After a review, the ball was moved back to the 34 and the refs measured. The new spot gave the Ravens a first down by the length of the ball.

Six plays later, Tucker kicked a 38-yard field goal to tie the game as regulation expired.

Bears 28, Vikings 10

In Chicago, Jay Cutler threw for 188 yards and a touchdown after missing a game because of a concussion as Chicago ended a two-game losing streak.

Tied with Green Bay for the NFC North lead and just a game ahead of Minnesota (6-5) coming in, the Bears (8-3) grabbed a 25-3 halftime lead thanks to Cutler's pinpoint passing. The defense held Adrian Peterson in check early on, although he finished with 108 yards rushing.

The win could prove costly. The Bears lost wide receiver Devin Hester (concussion), running back Matt Forte (ankle), cornerback Charles Tillman (ankle) and both starting guards to injuries.

Bengals 34, Raiders 10

In Cincinnati, Andy Dalton threw three touchdown passes and Cincinnati showed its former quarterback, Carson Palmer, that it has moved on without him.

BenJarvus Green-Ellis ran for 129 yards and a touchdown against the NFL's most generous defense. He had runs of 48 and 39 yards—the longest of his career—to set up scores.

Palmer had a tough time all-around in his return to Cincinnati, going 19 of 34 for 146 yards with four sacks and an interception.

With their third straight win, the Bengals (6-5) moved back into the playoff chase. Oakland (3-8) lost its fourth in a row.

Browns 20, Steelers 14

In Cleveland, Chris Rainey's fumble with 2:25 left—Pittsburgh's seventh of eight turnovers—was recovered by Cleveland's Phil Taylor and the Browns handed their hated rivals a potentially devastating loss.

Charlie Batch, starting at quarterback for Pittsburgh because of injuries to Ben Roethlisberger and Byron Leftwich, was picked off three times and the Steelers (6-5) lost five fumbles, the last on the final play of the game to help the Browns (3-8) beat Pittsburgh for just the second time in 18 games.

Browns quarterback Brandon Weeden sustained a head injury in the final minutes. Backup Colt McCoy finished the win.

Colts 20, Bills 13

In Indianapolis, T.Y. Hilton scored on a 75-yard punt return and caught an 8-yard TD pass from Andrew Luck.

Hilton is the first player in franchise history to score by punt return and pass reception in the same game. Indy improved to 7-4.

Luck was 20 of 37 for 240 yards with a TD and an interception.

Buffalo (4-7) ended its red-zone drought with 11:30 left with a 1-yard TD pass from Ryan Fitzpatrick to Lee Smith to make it 20-13.

Rams 31, Cardinals 17

In Glendale, Ariz., Janoris Jenkins became the first player in Rams history and the first NFL rookie since 1960 to return two interceptions for touchdowns in the same game.

Arizona rookie Ryan Lindley was intercepted four times in his first NFL start.

Sam Bradford had a pair of 37-yard touchdown passes—to Lance Kendricks and Chris Givens—for the Rams (4-6-1), who snapped a five-game winless streak and beat Arizona (4-7) for the second time this season.

Jaguars 24, Titans 19

In Jacksonville, Fla., Chad Henne threw two touchdown passes, sparking the NFL's worst offense for the second consecutive week.

The Jaguars (2-9) snapped a seven-game losing streak and were competitive at home for the first time this season.

Henne, making his first start in more than 13 months, found Cecil Shorts III on a 59-yard touchdown play in the third quarter and hooked up with rookie Justin Blackmon for a 7-yard score in the fourth.

The Titans (4-7) cut the lead to 21-19 on Jake Locker's 6-yard pass to Kenny Britt with 4:52 remaining and had the ball with a chance to take the lead. But Russell Allen tipped Locker's pass over the middle, and Dwight Lowery—back on the field after a five-week absence—had his first interception of the season.

Knicks rout Pistons, end losing streak at 2 games

NEW YORK (AP)—Carmelo Anthony scored 29 points in just 32 minutes, and the New York Knicks ended a two-game losing streak with a 121-100 victory over the Detroit Pistons on Sunday.

Steve Novak added a season-high 18 and JR Smith had 15 points and 10 rebounds for the Knicks, who started 8-1 and had the Eastern Conference's best record before a couple of defenseless performances in Texas spanning the Thanksgiving holiday. They were much better Sunday, improving to 5-0 at home.

New York takes the short trip to Brooklyn on Monday to face the Nets, a game that was postponed by Superstorm Sandy.

Brandon Knight scored 21 points and Charlie Villanueva had 17 for the Pistons, who have lost six straight games at Madison Square Garden.

The Knicks have been a much-improved defensive team under Mike Woodson but had a slipup in Texas, allowing 114 points in a loss at Dallas and then yielding 131 while getting blown out Friday in Houston.

They were much sharper Sunday, save for a few minutes where they seemed to ease up after building a 20-point halftime lead.

Rasheed Wallace scored 15 points against his former team, and Raymond Felton had 14 points and 10 assists as the Knicks beat the Pistons for the fourth straight time. Wallace was back after missing a game with a sore left foot.

Anthony made four 3-pointers after hitting seven and scoring a season-high 37 in Friday's loss. He never needed to play in the fourth quarter, the Knicks blowing it open for good while he was getting his usual rest to begin the period.

The Pistons started 0-8 before winning three of their next five, but were back to being bad on Sunday. They committed 20 turnovers, leading to 33 points.

Anthony was 6 of 7 in the first quarter, hitting all three 3-pointers and scoring 15 points as the Knicks opened a 32-22 lead. The Knicks closed the first half with an 18-6 run, taking a 64-44 lead to the locker room. They got help from the Pistons, who turned it over 12 times in the half, leading to 19 points.

But the Knicks left their intensity behind when they returned for the second half. They slumped back to the bench for a timeout after Kyle Singler left Jason Kidd standing still on a baseline cut for a layup, capping a 13-3 spurt to open the third quarter that cut the deficit to 67-57. Detroit got within eight later in the period, but Novak hit a couple of 3-pointers and the Knicks were back up 86-72 after three.

New York finished it off with a 10-3 burst in the fourth, extending a 10-point lead to 98-81 on another 3-pointer by Novak.

Spurs 111, Raptors 106

In Toronto, Tony Parker scored six of his 32 points in the second overtime, Tim Duncan had 26 and the San Antonio Spurs beat Toronto for the fourth straight time.

Manu Ginobili scored 15 points, Danny Green had 13 and Boris Diaw 11 as the Spurs won their third straight and improved their NBA-best road record to 7-1.

Parker made jump shots on consecutive possessions with less than 1:15 to go in the second overtime as the Spurs held on.

DeMar DeRozan led Toronto with 29 points, while rookie Jonas Valanciunas had 22 for the Raptors, who have lost their past three games by a combined seven points.

AP

New York Knicks' Carmelo Anthony (7) is guarded by Detroit Pistons' Tayshaun Prince during the second half of an NBA basketball game in New York, Sunday, Nov. 25, 2012.

Kevin McHale's daughter dies at 23

HOUSTON (AP)—The daughter of Houston Rockets coach Kevin McHale has died at 23.

Alexandra "Sasha" McHale died Saturday, and the team disclosed no other details Sunday.

Kevin McHale has been on leave since Nov. 10 to deal with what the team called a personal family matter. During his absence, Kelvin Sampson has been the interim coach. There is no timetable for Kevin McHale's return.

Team owner Leslie Alexander said in a statement that he extends his "deepest condolences" over the loss of the McHales' "beautiful daughter." He called Kevin and wife Lynn "loving and dedicated parents who will need our continued support throughout this very difficult time." He said the "entire organization is mourning."

Some of the Rockets expressed their support for McHale.

James Harden tweeted: "Praying for coach McHale and his family." Chandler Parsons added on Twitter: "R.I.P. Sasha."

McHale spent several years with the Minnesota Timberwolves as a coach and executive before joining the Rockets following two seasons as a television analyst.

"While Kevin was with our organization, we all watched Sasha grow up and become an outstanding young woman," Timberwolves owner Glen Taylor said in a statement. "She will be sorely missed by her family and friends."

Nets 98, Trail Blazers 85

In Brooklyn, Deron Williams had 15 points, 12 assists, four blocked shots and three steals, leading Brooklyn to a victory over Portland.

Joe Johnson scored 21 points and Brook Lopez had 15 for Brooklyn, which has won five straight games at Barclays Center. The 6-1 beginning on the new home court is the Nets' best start since the 2002-03 season when they won 18 of their first 19 at home.

Wesley Matthews scored 20 points and J.J. Hickson had 19 points and 10 rebounds for the Trail Blazers, who were without LaMarcus Aldridge. The All-Star forward was out with a stiff back.

76ers 104, Suns 101

In Philadelphia, Jrue Holiday had a career-high 33 points and 13 assists, leading the 76ers over the Suns.

Evan Turner scored 16 points, Lavoy Allen had 11 and Thaddeus Young 10 for the 76ers, who snapped a two-game losing str/eak. The Sixers (8-6) haven't dropped three in a row all season.

Michael Beasley led the Suns with 21 points while Marcin Gortat added 18.

Sebastian Telfair scored 12 points, Jermaine O'Neal had 11 while Goran Dragic and Luis Scola had 10 each for the Suns (6-8), who had won two in a row.

Celtics 116, Magic 110, OT

In Orlando, Fla., Kevin Garnett had 24 points and 10 rebounds, Paul Pierce added 23 points and Rajon Rondo was one rebound shy of a triple double with 15 points and 16 assists as Boston outlasted Orlando in overtime.

The Celtics won their second straight and earned their sixth consecutive win over the Magic. They return home Wednesday for a pair of home games, beginning with Brooklyn on Wednesday.

J.J. Redick scored 21 and Jameer Nelson had 20 for the Magic, whose loss snapped a two-game win streak.

Orlando led by as many as seven in the fourth quarter, but had 19 turnovers.

Nuggets 102, Hornets 84

In Denver, Andre Iguodala scored 23 points, Kenneth Faried had his eighth double-double of the season and the Nuggets beat the struggling Hornets.

Faried had 14 points and 12 rebounds for Denver, winners of four straight.

Ty Lawson had 17 points and six assists for the Nuggets who are 4-1 at home.

Reserve Brian Roberts led New Orleans with 17 points. Ryan Anderson added 16, but was held scoreless in the second half.

The Hornets have lost seven straight.

Auburn fires Gene Chizik after 3-9 season

AUBURN, Ala. (AP)—Gene Chizik led Auburn to perhaps the greatest season in the program's history, and two years later to maybe its worst.

The rapid fall from a national championship to 3-9 and the Southeastern Conference doormat led to Chizik's firing Sunday, the day after a humbling 49-0 loss to No. 2 Alabama that showed just how far the program has slipped.

The Tigers endured the worst slide within two years of winning a national championship of any team since the Associated Press poll started in 1936 and hadn't lost this many games since going 0-10 in 1950. The decision came 17 months after Auburn gave Chizik a contract worth some $3.5 million annually through 2015 with a hefty buyout.

Auburn athletic director Jay Jacobs said he informed Chizik Saturday night that he would recommend to President Jay Gogue the next morning that Chizik not be retained.

He said he had concerns with lopsided losses in 2011 but grew "very concerned in our fundamental approach to the game" after the Arkansas game.

"I had hoped our team would show some improvement this season," Jacobs said. "Unfortunately it didn't. The competition in our league is fierce. I decided we could not risk falling further behind by waiting for another year and hoping for improvement."

The players were informed in a team meeting Sunday.

"I'm extremely disappointed with the way this season turned out and I apologize to the Auburn family and our team for what they have had to endure," Chizik said in a statement released by Auburn. "In my 27 years of coaching, I have gained an understanding of the high expectations in this profession. When expectations are not met, I understand changes must be made."

The Tigers went from 14-0 with a perfect SEC record with Cam Newton leading the offense in 2010 to 3-9 and 0-8, losing their final three league games by a combined 150-21. Auburn was blown out by Texas A&M (63-21) and Georgia (38-0) but the finale was even more painful for Tigers fans.

The Crimson Tide cruised to a six-touchdown halftime lead and the second-most lopsided Iron Bowl victory in history, behind only the Tide's 55-0 win in 1948.

"While we experienced a tremendous low in 2012, I will always be proud of the incredible highs that we achieved, including three bowl victories, an SEC championship and a national championship," Chizik said.

He was 33-19 in four seasons and 15-17 in SEC games.

Auburn said the total buyout for Chizik and his assistant coaches is $11.09 million. Chizik's buyout is expected to total $7.5 million and will be paid in monthly installments for the next four years.

Six assistants are under contract through June 30, 2013 while defensive coordinator Brian VanGorder, offensive coordinator Scot Loeffler and wide receivers coach Trooper Taylor have deals extending another year beyond that.

The buyouts could be reduced if the coaches find other jobs.

Auburn joins Arkansas, Tennessee and Kentucky as SEC teams with job openings showing the huge divide in a league with six teams ranked in the Top 11.

Auburn tight end Philip Lutzenkirchen said players gave Chizik a warm ovation after the team meeting.

"I think we did what he deserved and we gave him a standing ovation and clapped for him," he said. "There's so much love for coach Chizik on this team. Would we have loved to see him get another year, another opportunity? Yes, but at the same time we understand where Jay Jacobs is coming from. Three wins isn't going to cut it in our league."

Defensive tackle Jeff Whitaker said, "It's kind of crazy right now. I had a special bond with Coach Chizik."

Chizik inserted tailback Tre Mason on the final play against Alabama to get him to 1,000 yards. The next day, Mason saw his coach get fired.

"It was a rough day for everybody," Mason said. "It's tough. There are going to be a lot of tears shed because there are a lot of relationships that may be put on hold or come to an end today. I have nothing negative to say about coach Chizik. He's done a lot for me and this program. I wish him the best of luck in his future."

Chizik had sandwiched two 8-5 seasons around the national title, but never approached the success of 2010, when Newton won the Heisman Trophy. The Tigers were 7-17 in SEC games outside of 2010 during his tenure.

His hiring was criticized by some fans after Chizik went 5-19 in two seasons at Iowa State and lost the last 10 games of his first head coaching job.

Jacobs was heckled at the airport after making the hire.

Chizik had been defensive coordinator on unbeaten teams at Auburn and Texas.

Try Luck completes 4th straight sweep

» Outlaws and Triple Threat also run the table

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

After dominating the Saipan Electronic Dart Association's regular season once again this year, Jonny's Bar & Grill's Try Luck went on to add a fourth consecutive clean sweep to its dynasty atop the Ladies Division after the conclusion of the postseason Bud Light Cup tournament last Nov. 19.

In addition, A Division's Outlawz of SOS Bar & Gril, and Tuesday B League's Triple Threat of Oceanside Bar & Grill also capped flawless seasons last week.

Try Luck seized its milestone with authority and powerchecked the Man-Amigas, 8-0, on the road at Oceanside, while the Outlawz narrowly escaped the Sabalu Boyz, 9-8, at Bammy's Restaurant & Bar on the same evening.

Triple Threat then defeated its Good Guyz counterparts, 8-2, in a road draw at Oceanside last Tuesday. All three eliminated contenders held a fifth place ranking.

Meanwhile, SOS' Fantastic Baby! will head over to Oceanside tomorrow to try and secure its perfect sweep in the Master level field when it takes on the fifth-ranked Destroyers.

Fantastic Baby! bumped out fourth-ranked The Joker, 9-4, and the Destroyers ripped up seventh place Mixblood Rookies, 9-2, in last week's semis held at SOS.

B-Fanihi's IT&E Na'Gupu and VWF Post 3457's Naughty Boyz both etched 8-6 road wins over respective opponents, Es'y Kitchen's No. 4 Kitchen Darters (No.4) and Jonny's No. 7 Rehab.

Tomorrow's B Fanihi finals will take place at Joe's Bar & Grill.

Also tomorrow, Jonny's Kyodai will look to wrap up an impeccable 2012 run as well when it ventures to Bammy's to face off with fifth-ranked ToK'Ka Hao for the B-Flame Tree Budweiser Cup.

Kyodai steamrolled Bammy's fourth-seeded Lilapuching, 8-2, and the latter contender manhandled the Juvy Rafalauans, 8-1, on the road at Sands Bar.

Moreover, the inter-government division semis pairing is expected to take place tomorrow at SOS and features Bammy's Team CUC versus CRMO's Primos at Naked Fish Bar & Grill, however the Primos will not be allowed to compete without settling its outstanding balance.

The winner advances to Friday's main event when it will be paired against SOS outside bet DPS Bad Boyz, which bested Naked Fish bottom-feeder NMC-Proa, 8-5, at home last Friday.

The C Division is running a week behind, thus its semifinalists include SOS' favored Royal Joker, VFW's Warriors, Oceanside's Shottas, and Shooters M-Side squads.

Royal Joker started the C Class tourney as the third seed and downed Naked Fish's fourth-ranked Hafa Mas before stunning Sands League frontrunner Lupeyt, 8-3, at home and advanced to the finals with an 8-5 road win over the Warriors last Wednesday at Joe's Steakhouse.

The Warriors clipped Island Apparel's Oh! MG, 8-5, on the road at Naked Fish in the quarterfinals after the pair waited out a first round bye.

Oceanside's eighth seed Shottas was also gifted a bye at the start and uprooted Jonny's seventh seed Sparks, 8-5, at home in the second round before proceeding into the semis where it laid to rest its 10th-ranked sister squad, Shooters M-Side, 8-5, to punch its ticket into the finals; Shooters M-Side managed an 8-5 home upset over Sands' ninth-ranked Juvy Aschoaschoo in round two following their opening round byes.

Notably, SEDA organizers will hold its awards banquet next month on Dec. 23 in the Charley's Cabaret of Pacific Islands Club. Doors open at 10:30am.

RACE

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finale, 6-4, 3-6, 6-3.

The Guam players were ranked second in the draw and eliminated Peter Lai and Benson Au-yeung, 6-2, 6-4, to march into the finals. Padilla and Pangelinan also recorded a two-set victory over George Lai and Eddie Wu, 6-1, 6-4, to take the second finals berth last Saturday.

Peter Lai and Au-yeung also barged into the finals of the men's 4.0 doubles, but bowed to the pair of Saipan junior players Seiya Eda and Tommy Choi, 4-6, 6-3, 4-6.

Peter Lai and Au-yeung were seeded first in the draw and won over Hector Benitez and Boboy Sergio, 6-2, 6-3, and Moris Villanueva and Poquiz over the weekend, 6-4, 6-3, to clinch the first finals berth. Eda and Choi were at the bottom half of the draw and booked the second finals ticket after ousting Bong Gamab and Reo Arriola, 0-6, 6-1, 6-4, and Gabriel Colombo and Kentaro Imaya, 6-2, 7-5.

Mini tennis winners

The final week of the Tan Holdings Classic also featured short court competitions for co-ed U10 players.

Ericka Tuttle won the mini tennis' singles crown, while Ellie Epley and Tomy Kim settled for second and third places.

Kim also joined the boys doubles and brought home the championship with teammate Daniele Colombo, while Tuttle and Maya Sato clinched the girls tiara.

FA CUP

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Joon Tenorio added two, and Amie Abes chipped in one.

Villanueva opened MP United U15's scoring early with his goal the second minute, while Abes nailed his first two minutes later. Kim was next to score for MP United with his first in the 10th, while Villanueva earned his second in the 13th, and Tenorio made it to the board four minutes later. Villanueva then completed the hat-trick with a goal in the 21st, while Tenorio got his second in the 24th.

After watching his teammates show the show for nine minutes, scoring in the 27th, 31st, and 36th minute, while Kim closed out for MP United U15 with his second goal in the 37th.

Down by a big margin at the break, Cosmos, which had key players missing the knockout match due to a tournament in Guam, decided not to continue the game and handed the win to MP United U15.

Tan Holdings 8, Matansa 3

In the second game, Tan Holdings' boys U18 also leaned on a first-half breakaway to eliminate Matansa's boys U15.

Tan Holdings took a commanding 6-1 halftime lead and never looked back to advance to the semifinals. Tanapon Unsa scored two goals in the first-half attack, while Thanyakorn Konkoed, Dan Deric Ibarra, Jeff Palacios, and Joe Galarion chipped in one goal apiece. Sean Perez logged Matansa' lone goal in the first 45 minutes of play.

Konkoed broke the ice for Tan Holdings in the third minute, while Galarion recorded his first goal in three minutes later. Palacios and Ibarra made Tan Holdings' next two goals for a 4-0 lead before Perez ended Matansa's drought in the 22nd minute.

Both teams went cold for more than 10 minutes before Unsa scored back-to-back goals (35th and 37th) to put Matansa in deep trouble.

Matansa managed to improve its offense a bit in the second half with Perez getting his second goal and Yoshi Mafnas earning his first. However, Palacios and Unsa answered with one goal each to preserve Tan Holdings' wide winning margin.

Paire U18 9, Paire U15 0

Also cruising to victory last weekend was Paire's boys U18, which whipped sister team Paire's boys U15.

Seven different players scored in the lopsided victory of Paire's boys U18. Colin Fruit and Zhi Peng Lin contributed two goals each, while Makani Gramlich, Timothy Tawanpiy, Mason Fruit, Ethan Dickinson, and Don Cabrera earned one apiece.

Paire's U18 is seeded first in the single-elimination tournament and with its win last Saturday, it faces MP United's U15 squad tonight at 7pm for the second finals berth. Tan Holdings and MP United's U18 team square off for the first finals seat at 4:30pm. MP United had a free semis pass after winning via forfeiture against the Women's U21 Rowdies.

Both semis games will be played at the Oleai Sports Complex Field, which is also the venue of this Thursday's finale.

BRASH

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Duran in Kissimmee, Florida, in 2010.

In between, he fought some of the biggest stars spanning two eras, including Sugar Ray Leonard, Felix Trinidad, Oscar De La Hoya and Roberto Duran.

"Hector was a fighter who brought a lot of excitement to boxing," said Ed Brophy, executive director of International the Boxing Hall of Fame. "He was a good champion. Roberto Duran is kind of in a class of his own, but Hector surely was an exciting fighter that gave his all to the sport."

Camacho's family moved to New York when he was young and he grew up in Spanish Harlem, which at the time was rife with crime. Camacho landed in jail as a teenager before turning to boxing, which for many kids in his neighborhood provided an outlet for their aggression.

"This is something I've done all my life, you know?" Camacho told The Associated Press after a workout in 2010. "A couple years back, when I was doing it, I was still enjoying it. The competition, to see myself perform. I know I'm at the age that some people can't do this no more."

Former featherweight champion Juan Laporte, a friend since childhood, described Camacho as "like a little brother who was always getting into trouble," but otherwise combined a friendly nature with a powerful jab.

"He's a good human being, a good hearted person," Laporte said as he waited with other friends and members of the boxer's family outside the hospital in San Juan after the shooting. "A lot of people think of him as a cocky person but that was his motto ... Inside he was just a kid looking for something."

Laporte lamented that Camacho never found a mentor to guide him outside the boxing ring.

"The people around him didn't have the guts or strength to lead him in the right direction," Laporte said. "There was no one strong enough to put a hand on his shoulder and tell him how to do it."

George Lozada, a longtime friend from New York who flew to Puerto Rico on Saturday, recalled that just hours after he was released from prison after serving a murder sentence, he received a call from Camacho, who was waiting outside his apartment in a black Porsche.

"He said, 'Come down, I'm taking you shopping,'" Lozada said, wiping away tears.

"Because of him, man, I got what I got today," he said, pointing to pictures on his smartphone of his 6-year-old daughter. "Because of Hector, I stopped the drug scene ... He's helped so many people."

Drug, alcohol and other problems trailed Camacho himself after the prime of his boxing career. He was sentenced in 2007 to seven years in prison for the burglary of a computer store in Mississippi. While arresting him on the burglary charge in January 2005, police also found the drug ecstasy.

EX-PH

From Page 28

Futbol Club, which competed in the semi-professional football tournament, United Football League, and was the Philippine National Street Soccer director in 2010.

Also in 2010, del Rosario helped the PH Homeless World Cup Team beat Norway, 4-3, and win the Host Cup in Rio De Janeiro, Brazil.

Meanwhile, MP United's Vickie Izuka in an earlier email to *Saipan Tribune* said that next month's clinic is similar to the one the club had with former CNMI National Team member Nick Swaim last summer. She added the camp aims to continue honing the skills of their youth players, who are expected to face tough challenges from their significantly improving opponents.

MP United boys U15 coach Norman del Rosario, who is helping coordinate the camp, said the clinic will run from Monday to Friday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field and each day is divided into two sessions. The 3:15pm session is for players in the U12 and U14 age group, while U16 and U18 strikers will take their turn at the Oleai pitch at 4:20pm.

Norman del Rosario added that clinic slots are limited, so interested MP United players are encouraged to register early with their respective coaches/managers. He said the club's initial plan is to have a maximum of 20 players per session, as the visiting coach would like to spend more time with each participant.

MP United is sponsoring next month's camp with the help of IT&E and Konflikt Clothing.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	9	3	.750	–
Brooklyn	8	4	.667	1
Philadelphia	8	6	.571	2
Boston	8	6	.571	2
Toronto	3	11	.214	7

Southeast Division

Miami	10	3	.769	–
Atlanta	8	4	.667	1½
Charlotte	7	5	.583	2½
Orlando	5	8	.385	5
Washington	0	11	.000	9

Central Division

Milwaukee	6	5	.545	–
Chicago	6	6	.500	½
Indiana	6	8	.429	1½
Cleveland	3	10	.231	4
Detroit	3	11	.214	4½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

Memphis	9	2	.818	½
San Antonio	11	3	.786	–
Dallas	7	7	.500	4
Houston	6	7	.462	4½
New Orleans	3	9	.250	7

Northwest Division

Oklahoma City	10	4	.714	–
Denver	8	6	.571	2
Utah	7	7	.500	3
Portland	6	7	.462	3½
Minnesota	5	7	.417	4

Pacific Division

L.A. Clippers	8	5	.615	–
Golden State	8	6	.571	½
L.A. Lakers	7	7	.500	1½
Phoenix	6	8	.429	2½
Sacramento	4	9	.308	4

NFL STANDINGS

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New England	8	3	0	.727	407	244
Miami	5	6	0	.455	211	226
N.Y. Jets	4	7	0	.364	221	290
Buffalo	4	7	0	.364	243	319

South

Houston	10	1	0	.909	327	211
Indianapolis	7	4	0	.636	230	273
Tennessee	4	7	0	.364	238	335
Jacksonville	2	9	0	.182	188	308

North

Baltimore	9	2	0	.818	283	219
Pittsburgh	6	5	0	.545	231	210
Cincinnati	6	5	0	.545	282	247
Cleveland	3	8	0	.273	209	248

West

Denver	8	3	0	.727	318	221
San Diego	4	7	0	.364	245	237
Oakland	3	8	0	.273	218	356
Kansas City	1	10	0	.091	161	301

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East

N.Y. Giants	7	4	0	.636	305	226
Washington	5	6	0	.455	295	285
Dallas	5	6	0	.455	242	262
Philadelphia	3	7	0	.300	162	252

South

Atlanta	10	1	0	.909	294	216
Tampa Bay	6	5	0	.545	310	254
New Orleans	5	6	0	.455	308	304
Carolina	2	8	0	.200	184	243

North

Chicago	8	3	0	.727	277	175
Green Bay	7	4	0	.636	273	245
Minnesota	6	5	0	.545	248	249
Detroit	4	7	0	.364	267	280

West

San Francisco	8	2	1	.773	276	155
Seattle	6	5	0	.545	219	185
St. Louis	4	6	1	.409	205	254
Arizona	4	7	0	.364	180	227

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dela Cruz nabs XGA November ace

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

After coming up just short yet again last month, Joey Dela Cruz elevated his already solid game even more and bagged five birdies and an eagle to win the X-clusive Golfers Association's November Ace of the Month Tournament last Saturday at the Coral Ocean Point Resort Club.

Surprisingly, Dela Cruz ended up the second to the last qualifier into the club's finale Ace of Aces Tournament slated for January 2013, despite routinely posting strong gross scores all season long.

The final chance for contenders in the hunt will take place sometime before Christmas in the December Ace event, also at COP.

Dela Cruz was on fire over the weekend and started out with a birdie on the very first hole. He then bagged three other birds on holes No. 5, 7, and 9 for a 33 gross count at the turn, and steadied the ship on the back nine with a respectable 38.

Dela Cruz went on to birdie hole No. 14 and ended his round with a sweet eagle just before pulling into the clubhouse.

His 71 raw tally was trimmed down to a 61 net score that blew away the competition by six strokes and won a hefty $170 cash prize in addition to the relief of making the cut into the big show at the turn of the calendar year.

Dela Cruz also won an extra $20 for landing his tee shot in hole No. 7's closest to the pin.

Other closest to the pin winners included John Reyes in hole No. 3, Manny Alvarez in hole No. 12, and An Hun Jin in hole No. 14.

Second place went to Rep. Tony Sablan who scratched a 39 on the front nine and finished the back side with a 44 for a gross total of 83 that was adjusted into a 67 net score and won a cool $100, while Kisoo Kim rounded out the third spot with a 38 on the front coupled with a 41 on the back for a 79 that was factored into a 69 net result. Kim took home $70.

Kim actually tied Rene Batallones, however his par on the secret tiebreaker hole (hole No. 8) earned him the nod as the latter endured a bogey.

A total of 21 members turned out over the weekend in addition to six guest players.

Dela Cruz joins January ace and reigning Ace of Aces champion J.J. Cabrera, February's Mike Sablan, March's Kisoo Kim, April's Yoon Jae Tuk, May's An Hun Jin, June's Park Hong, July's Luis Cepeda, August's John Cepeda, September's Carl Hocog, and October's Ernest Sablan for the season-ending golf-fest.

The XGA is made up of about 30 members and, contrary to its name, the club is open to the public and anyone is welcome can join. However, registration begins at the turn of the calendar year as the group's January event serves as both the beginning and end of the season. The Ace of Ace champion of this year by tradition is also hailed as the January ace of the new season.

Newcomers are required to pay a $50 annual fee in addition to a club uniform ($25/polo shirt); membership renewal for returning members is only $40.

On the day of events, players are also required to foot a green fee along with an added modest charge that goes toward the awards banquet, prize money, and incentives for the club.

For more information, contact XGA secretary J.J. Cabrera at 287-9478 for more information.

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

X-clusive Golf Association November Ace Joey Dela Cruz, third left, poses for a group photo with XGA president and birthday boy Dave Cepeda, right, runner-up Rep. Tony Sablan, far left, and third placer Kisoo Kim at the club's awards ceremony at Cepeda's residence in San Vicente last Saturday.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A blue RC truck chews through a left turn during the Saipan Radio Control Racer's November race series held in the As Lito track last Nov. 18.

SRCR races resume after 3-month break

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Paul Salalila and Rodney Catalla were victorious in Saipan Radio Control Racers' November event held last Nov. 18 at the club track in As Lito following a three-month hiatus due to rain.

Salalila swept the Stock A-Main class category in his TraXXas Slash, while Catalla stole the win from the former in the Open Main Stock event with his HPI Blitz.

Meanwhile, Jojo Saracho and his HPI Biltz won the B-Main Stock event.

Salalila came into the A-Main event as the top qualifier and rose to the occasion in the final, leading 10 out of 11 laps with runner-up Jude Dickinson all over his rear bumper.

In the end, less than a second separated the two frontrunners as Salalila held on to take the checkered flag after a photo finish in 5:09:18.

Dickinson's TraXXas Slash fell just short in 5:09:82, while Rodney Catalla's HPI Blitz (5:20:76), Leo Gatus (5:24:97) and Saracho's (5:28:54) radio-controlled vehicles rounded out the rest of the field.

Salalila then revved up his Kyosho SCR and won the pole once again heading into the open main stock race and led the first three laps, but ran into some trouble on lap 4 and was passed early on by both Catalla and Dickinson.

Salalila recovered and managed to pace the group for three more laps midway through the race, but was tripped up a couple more times during the 13-lap ordeal and ended up finishing in third place.

Catalla endured a pair of early hiccups on the second and fifth lap, but found his rhythm halfway through the race and finished with a clean run to seize the win.

Dickinson and his Losi XXX-SCT were in the mix the whole time, but a critical stumble on lap 10 gave more than enough margin of error to Catalla and the former had to settle for runner-up honors for a second time.

Catalla crossed the finish line in 6:58:65, while Dickinson hung on to edge out Salalila in a photo finish for second place in 7:03:03.

Salalila (7:03:54), Saracho (7:09:83), and Gatus (7:14:82) completed the open main field.

In the B-Main Stock event Saracho triumphed over runner up Adam Salalila and his Kyosho SCR, while Butter Dickinson and his TraXXas Slash rounded out the third spot; the B-Main post times were not recorded.

Notably, A-Main's best lap was clocked by Dickinson on Lap 2 in 21.33-sec, while open main's best lap was credited to Catalla on Lap 10 in 29.37-sec.

In addition, there were no Young Gun class races held this month.

There are over 20 active SRCR members, and growing, which regularly take part in practices every Sunday in As Lito.

The group tries to hold a day-long monthly event in their four racing categories.

The public is welcome to check out the track and learn more about the hobby.

Contact SRCR's Rodney Catalla at 256-7119 for more information.

Yuko hailed as CWGA November ace

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Yuko Togawa topped a field of 18 to win the CNMI Women Golfers Association's November Ace of the Month Tournament held last Nov. 10 at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort's east course.

Togawa started out with an even 36 on the front nine and remained consistent after the turn for a 37 on the last nine holes that left her with a crafty 73 raw card that turned into a 69 net score after the handicap adjustment.

Though her gross score bested the field by three strokes she appreciated the extra points as four others posed a threat to her victory.

May ace Xiao Ling Wang, July winner Sherlyn Jones; and Yi Su Jeong all barreled down the home stretch in an effort to steal her thunder. However, the former hung tough in the clutch to earn the outright win.

The trio was on Togawa's heels all day and Wang and Jones trailed by just two strokes at the midpoint with Jeong sitting close behind with an even 40 at the turn.

Wang caught her second wind on the backside and finished the back nine with a 37 for a strong raw tally of 76 that was shaved down to an even 70 net score.

Togawa

Jones and Jeong remained steady more or less and pulled into the clubhouse with a pair of 42s that ended up matching Wang's result after the net scoring adjustment, but the latter received runner-up honors for possessing a lower handicap (6).

Notably, June ace Noriko Togawa led the pack after the first nine holes with a raw 35, but faded with a 40 on the back and settled for fifth place with a 71 net score despite turning in the second lowest gross card of the day (75). The remaining field came in a handful of strokes behind her.

Yuko Togawa joins May's Wang, June's Noriko Togawa, July's Jones, and August's Jeon Me Ae along with the group's dual ace winner Lorraine Babauta who won back-to-back spoils in September and October.

Established in 2007, the CWGA is a non-profit organization founded to promote, encourage and introduce women to the sport of golf in the CNMI. The CWGA utilizes a standard net score format, where a predetermined point system is tallied during the season.

First place is awarded 15 points, in addition to a bid into the Ace of Aces finale tourney, while 14 points goes to second and so on down through the top ten place finishers; the remaining participants each reach one point. Its season traditionally starts in May and ends in April with its two-round Ace of Aces championship.

For more information contact Terry Guerrero at 285-8374, Bennet Seman at 483-0126, Yuko Togawa at 287-9856, or Delores Yamagishi at 483-3195.

Marianas Coffee Trail Run on Jan. 26

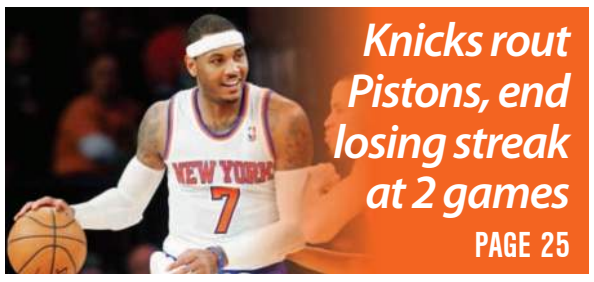
The Marianas Coffee Trail Run has been called one of the most scenically beautiful trail running events in the world. The 15K trail run and 10K short course take participants through a variety of Saipan's island ecosystems, from the flat coastal areas of Garapan where the race begins, through the foothills of Mount Tapachao, and on up and around Tapachao peak itself, before heading back down again to the finish. Incredible vistas of the Saipan lagoon, rich tropical jungle flora and fauna, and both the wild coffee plantations of the Japanese colonial period, and the newer plantations of the Marianas Coffee Company, are just a few of the highlights to be had along this challenging course.

The run returns to the Northern Marianas for its 6th year on Jan. 26, 2013, with the start location at the American Memorial Park in Garapan and start time at 6:30am. Registration forms for the event are available at the Marianas Visitors Authority office in San Jose or online at www.mymarianas.com.

Late registration can be made on the day of the race at the American Memorial Park at 5:30am. Registration fees are $10 for children ages 12 and under, $15 for athletes ages 13-18 years old, and $25 for participants ages 19 and older. A late registration fee of an additional $10.00 will apply after Jan. 24, 2013. Walkers are encouraged to participate in the 10K short course.

Awards will be presented for first, second, and third place in male and female divisions. All participants will receive a finisher's T-shirt, certificate of participation, Marianas Coffee, and an invitation to the awards banquet following the race at the Micro Beach Pavilion at 11:30am.

The MVA also recognized and commended race co-sponsors Marianas Coffee Company, the KFC Triathlon Club Japan, TEAM PDI, and Northern Marianas Athletics for making the event possible. For more information on the Marianas Coffee Trail Run, contact Ed Diaz at the MVA at telephone 664-3200/1 or via email at ediaz@mymarianas.com. ***(PR)***



Saipan Tribune
Sports

Race, Lopez top mixed doubles

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The teacher-student pair of Jeff Race and Mikayla Lopez claimed the mixed doubles open crown in the 4th Annual Tan Holdings Tennis Classic.

The duo's title match over Bobby Cruz and Thea Minor were among the afternoon games that were completed in the final week of competition and Race and Lopez survived the three-set finale last Sunday at the American Memorial Park, 7-5, 5-7, 6-4.

"It was my first time to team up with Mika [Lopez]. She did very well in our first team up. It was really a close match and we were able to pull it off in the end and scored some points, as Bobby cramped out," said Race.

"I would like to team up with different students every time I have a chance to play in doubles, as it is like having a regular training session with my players. I played with Thea before and now it's with Mika," added Race, who called in sick and missed Week 1 of the Tan Holdings Classic.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Jeff Race makes a return, while teammate Mikayla Lopez gets ready during their mixed open doubles title game against Thea Minor and Bobby Cruz in the 4th Annual Tan Holdings Tennis Classic last Sunday at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.

Meanwhile, four other doubles matches scheduled last Sunday were completed.

In the mixed doubles 40-and-above division finals, Joy Minor and Roy Pangelinan took only two sets to beat Lydia Tan and Guam's David Lai, 6-2, 6-3. The eventual champions were seeded second in the field and made it to the finals after sweeping Yuka Iwata and Sam Lai in the semis last Saturday, 6-4, 6-2. Tan and David Lai took the long route to the finals after they had to play against the tandem of Sally Lee and George Lai in three sets, 6-4, 1-6, 4-2 (retire).

In the mixed 3.0 double, Don Castillo and Marivic Rosario prevailed in the round-robin competition against eventual runners-up Maro dela Torre and George Poquiz and Sam Apostol and Sadako Arriola.

After settling for second place finishes in other divisions, Sam and David Lai finally topped an event after defeating Saipan's Lope Padilla and Pangelinan in the men's doubles 40-and-above

See RACE on Page 26

Ex-PH striker to hold clinic for MP United

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

MP United will be hosting a two-week soccer camp and is bringing in a former member of the Philippine National Team to conduct the clinic for the club's youth players.

del Rosario

Rudy del Rosario, who is also the head coach of the PH National Team for the 2012 Homeless World Cup, will be arriving on Saipan this Saturday in time for the MP United-sponsored camp set from Dec. 3 to 14.

The visiting coach was part of the PH National Team that posted a historic 1-0 win over Malaysia during the 1991 Southeast Asian Games in Manila. He is also one of the founding members of Kaya

See EX-PH on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Paire FC boys U18's Timothy Tawanpiy goes for a kick during their game against Paire's U15 team in the 2012 FA Challenge Cup last Saturday at the Hopwood Junior High School Field.

FA Cup Final Four cast complete

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The 2012 FA Challenge Cup is down to four from nine teams after the second round of matches were completed last Saturday at the Hopwood Junior High School Field.

First to get a Final Four seat was MP United FC's boys U15 team, which routed the all-female crew of U21 Cosmos, 11-0. The match ended right in the first half, as the depleted Cosmos team begged off from playing the final 45 minutes of the game, as it could not stand the heat, literally, and some of its players were sick.

Aaron Lee and Moris Villanueva drilled three goals apiece to lead MP United U15's easy win, while Jason Kim and Sun

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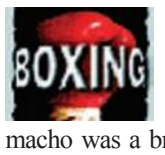
Brash boxer Hector 'Macho' Camacho dies in Puerto Rico



SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)—Hector "Macho" Camacho was a brash fighter with a mean jab and an aggressive style, launching himself furiously against some of the biggest names in boxing. And his bad-boy persona was not entirely an act, with a history of legal scrapes that began in his teens and continued throughout his life.

The man who once starred at the pinnacle of boxing, winning several world titles, died Saturday after being ambushed in a parking lot back in the Puerto Rican town of Bayamon where he was born. Packets of cocaine were found were found in the car in which he was shot.

Camacho, 50, left behind a reputation for flamboyance—leading fans in cheers of "It's Macho time!" before fights—and for fearsome skills as one of the top fighters of his generation.

"He excited boxing fans around the world with his inimitable style," promoter Don King told The Associated Press.

AP

In this July 14, 2001 file photo, boxing champ Hector "Macho" Camacho celebrates after defeating Roberto Duran in their super middleweight National Boxing Association championship fight in Denver.

Camacho fought professionally for three decades, from his humble debut against David Brown at New York's Felt Forum in 1980 to an equally forgettable swansong against Saul

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